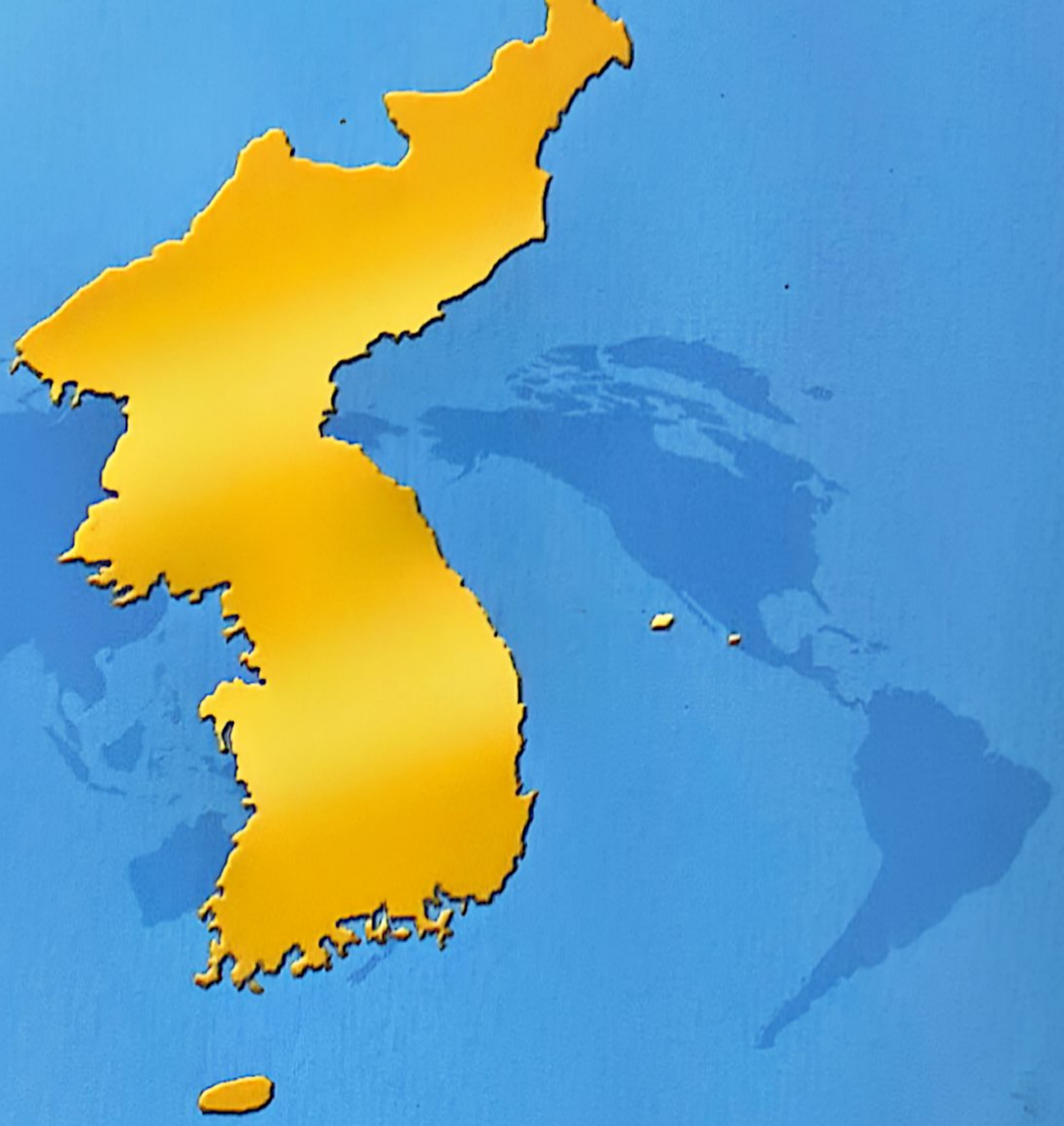
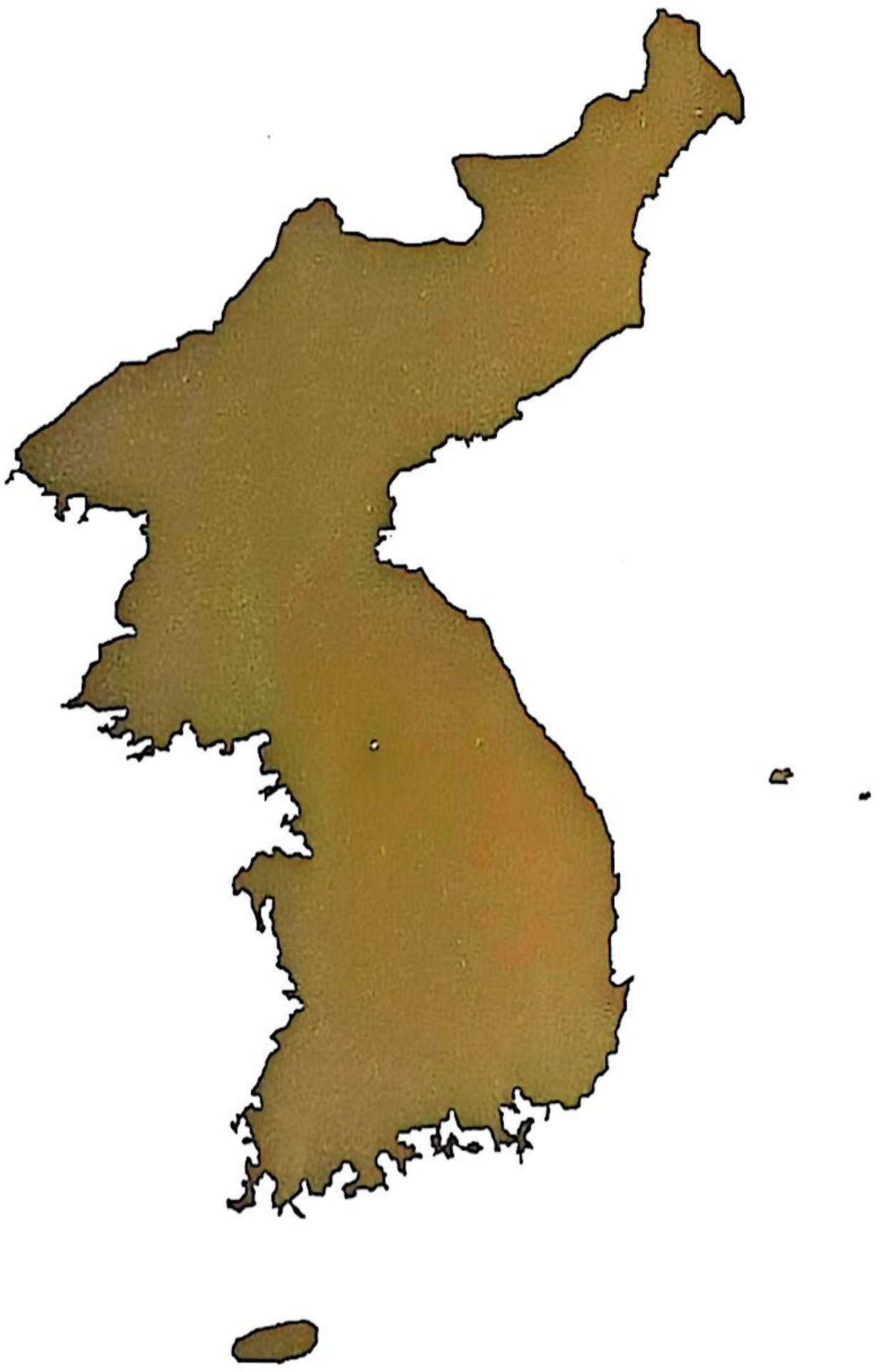
PANORAMA OF KOREA



PYONGYANG, DPR OF KOREA
JUCHE 102 (2013)

PANORAMA OF KOREA



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Preface

There is a growing worldwide interest in Korea, which has been called a land of morning calm and the light of Asia from time immemorial.

What do foreigners think as they visit Korea, a country with a 5 000-year history and brilliant national culture and a country suffering the tragedy of national division imposed by outside forces?

What is the DPRK like?

The editorial board has brought out the book *Panorama of Korea* to help the readers have a better understanding of the people-centred socialist country.

For the readers' convenience, the book gives an outline of the natural environment and history of Korea and features in sequence the great leaders, politics, national defence, the economy, culture, folklore, religion and tourism that are essential for understanding modern Korea.

The book provides historical facts, relics and remains and the eye-opening reality of the DPRK advancing towards a thriving nation, focusing on the issues of major interest.

We hope that the book will be of help to those who want to have a correct understanding of the DPRK.

Editorial Board

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Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

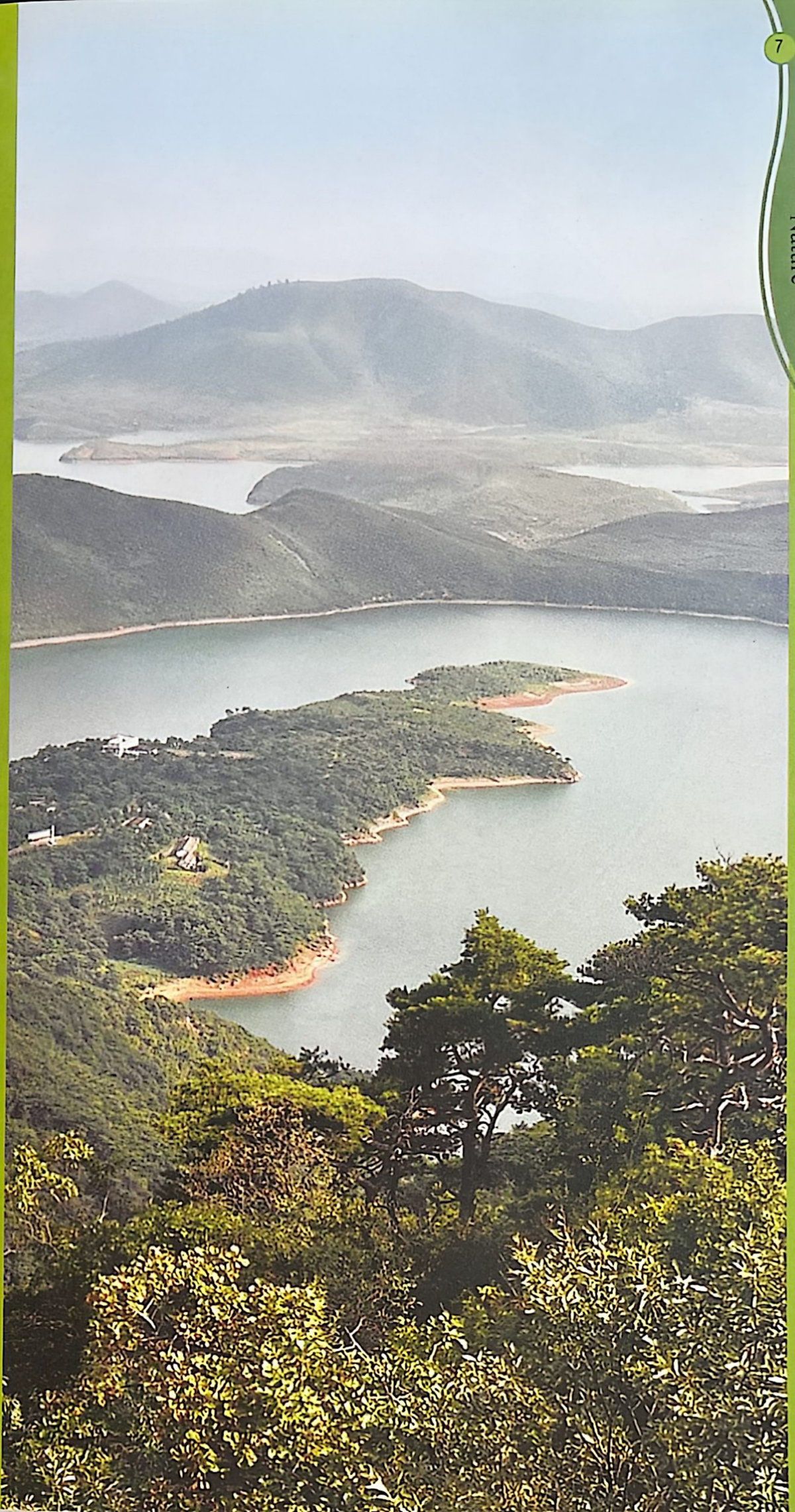
The Economy

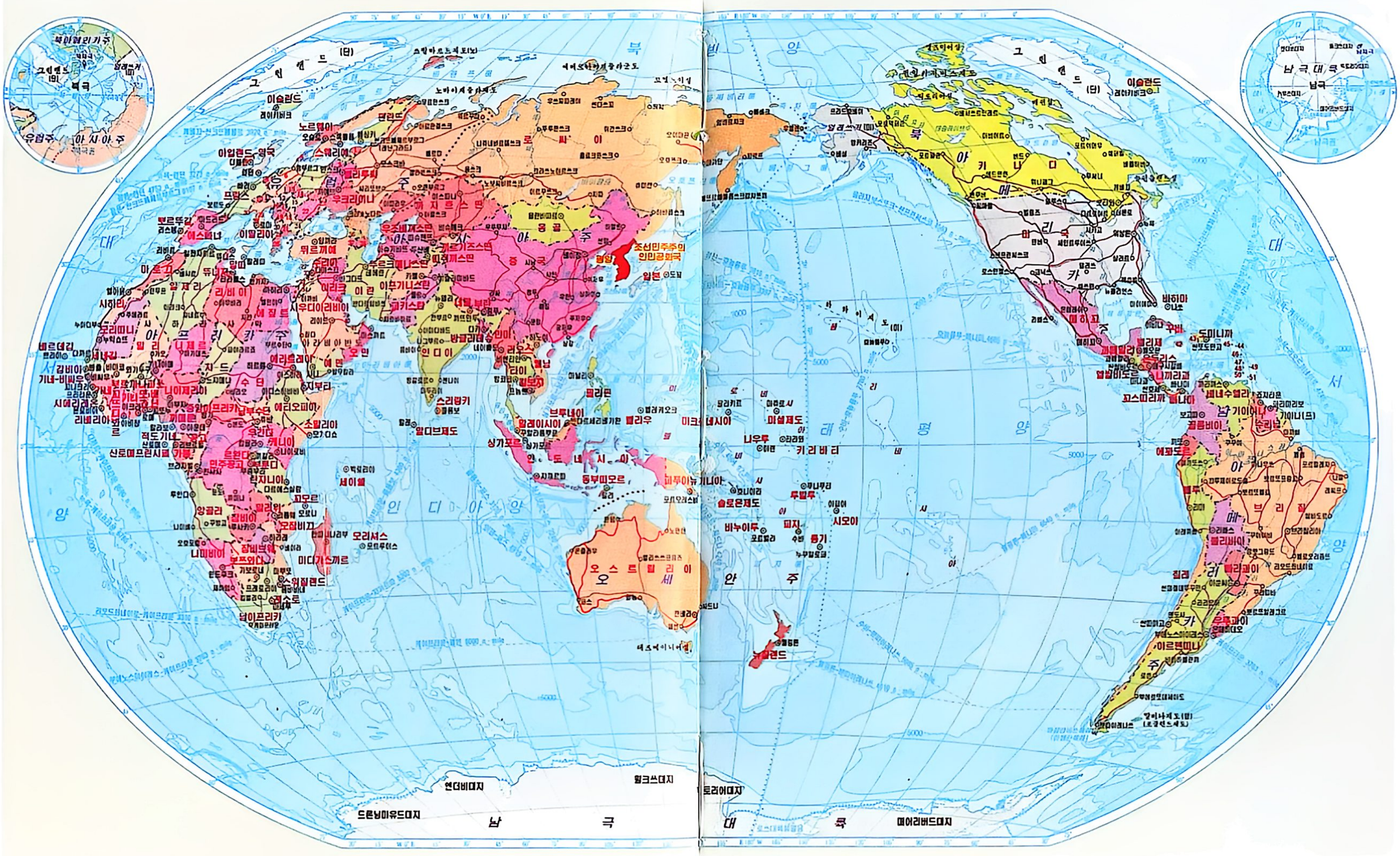
Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism





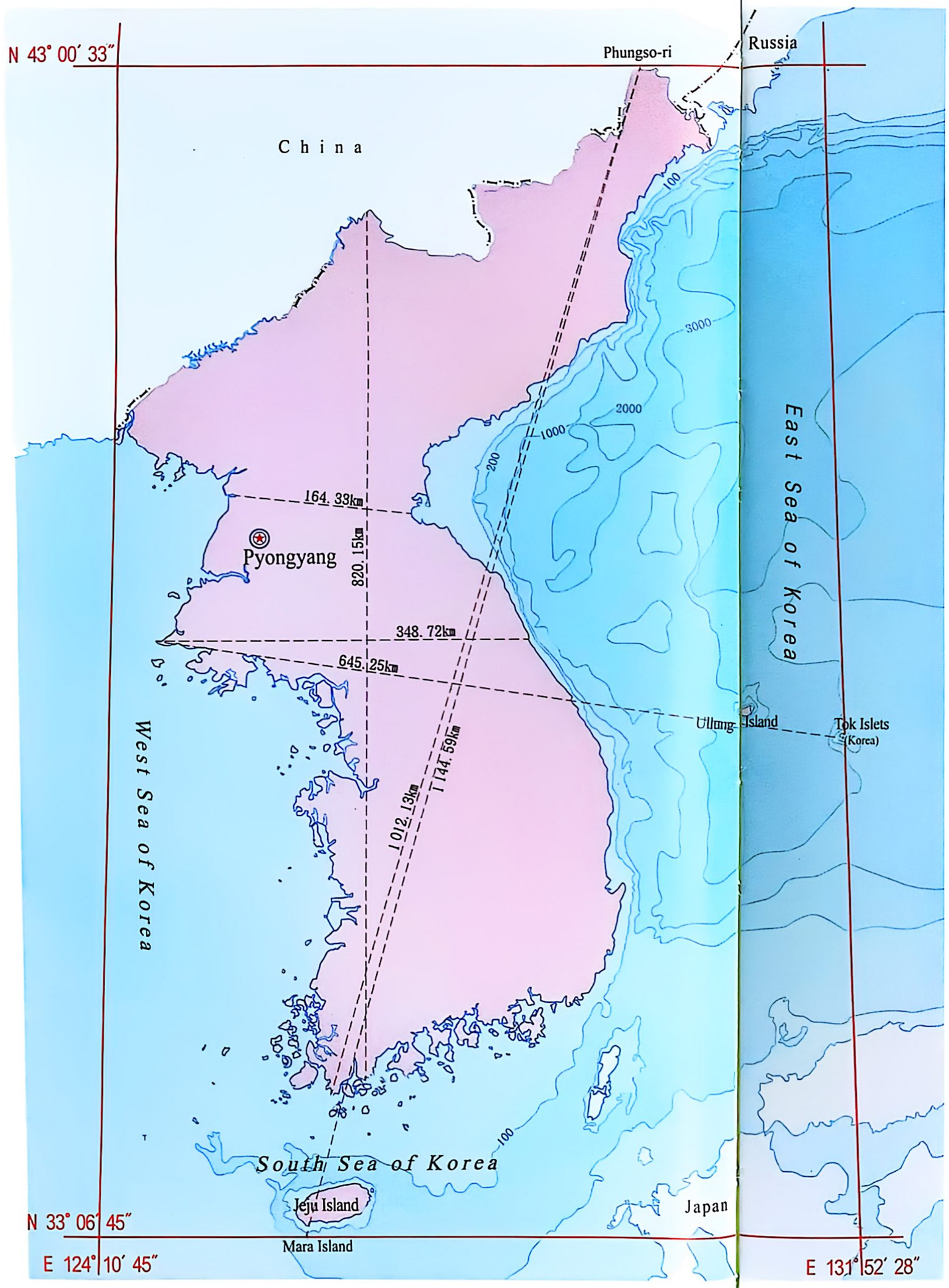
Location and Territory

Korea is located in the Korean peninsula projecting from the east of Eurasia towards the Pacific Ocean. It is bounded by the continent on the north and by sea on the east, west and south.

It lies between 124°10′45″E. (western tip of Pidan Island of Sindo County, North Phyongan Province) and 131°52′28″E. (eastern tip of Tok Islets of Ullung County, North Kyongsang Province) and between 33°06′45″N. (southern tip of Mara Island of Sogwipho City, Jeju Province) and 43°00′33″N. (northern tip of Phungso-ri of Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province). The peninsula, excluding islands, lies between 124°18′38″E. (western tip of Jinhung District of Ryongchon County, North Phyongan Province) and 130°41′45″E. (eastern tip of Uam-dong, Rason City) and between 34°17′31″N. (southern tip of Songji Sub-county of Haenam County, South Jolla Province) and 43°00′33″N. (northern tip of Phungso-ri of Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province).

The ninth zone time is used. The span of the longitudes in which Korea is situated is about 8°. Latitudinally, the peninsula extends for about 10° southwards from the middle of the temperate zone in the northern hemisphere.

The territory consists of the Korean peninsula and about 3 450 islands around it. Its total area is 223 935 square kilometres, inclusive of 5 829 square kilometres of islands. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (north Korea) has an area of 123 138 square kilometres and south Korea 100 797 square kilometres.



In the size of territory, Korea is the 84th in about 200 independent states in the world.

The territorial waters stretch seawards for 12 nautical miles from the starting line of counting.

The air space is as high as the globally-recognized lowest orbit of artificial earth satellite.

Korea is very long in circumference, compared with the size of its territory. The peninsula, exclusive of islands, is 8 246.9 kilometres in circumference. Of them, the coastline is 6 877.5 kilometres long and the land boundary line 1 369.4 kilometres long (from the estuary of the Tuman River to that of the Amnok River). The longest distance from the north to the south (from Phungso-ri of Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province to Mara Island of Sogwipho, Jeju Province) is 1 144.59 kilometres.

Topography

Korea is mountainous with the land standing an average of 443 metres above sea level. The highlands are 177 580 square kilometres (79.3% of the whole territory) and the lowlands are 46 355 square kilometres (20.7% of the whole territory). Topographically, the land is high on the north and the east and gets lower southwards and westwards.

The Great Paektu Mountains stretch from Mt. Paektu to Kuje Peak on the south coast constituting the spinal mountain range and spreading many branches, thereby forming a system of mountain ranges. Janggun Peak (2 750 metres above sea level) of Mt. Paektu is the highest peak in Korea.

Korea abounds in uplands and hollows including the Paektu, Paengmu and Kaema Plateaus, the Kanggye and Hoeryong Basins and the Ryongmun and Songam Caverns.

Valleys are developed along plenty of rivers and streams and slopes hold a wide area. Pyongyang, Ryongchon, Yoltusamcholli and other plains are mostly found in the lower reaches of long rivers on the west and south coasts and coastal areas.

The coastline is long and very indented.

Korea has diverse landforms such as alpine areas, plateaus, plains, basins, river valleys, coasts, karst and aeolian soil.

Celebrated Mountains

Mt. Paektu

Mt. Paektu is the highest in Korea, which rises at its northern border with China, specifically in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province. The Korean people regard it as the sacred mountain of the revolution and the ancestral mountain of the nation.

A chain of its peaks imposingly soars up in the middle of vast primitive forests.

On the main peak of Janggun Peak you can see the breathtaking sunrise over Mt. Paektu dying red the peaks, valleys and Lake Chon.

Lake Chon on the mountaintop mirroring the peaks of Mt. Paektu like the Janggun, Hyangdo, Paegun, and Chail Peaks is a wonder to behold.

One of the largest alpine lakes in the world is 14.4 kilometres in circumference, 9.16 square kilometres in area and 384 metres deep in maximum.

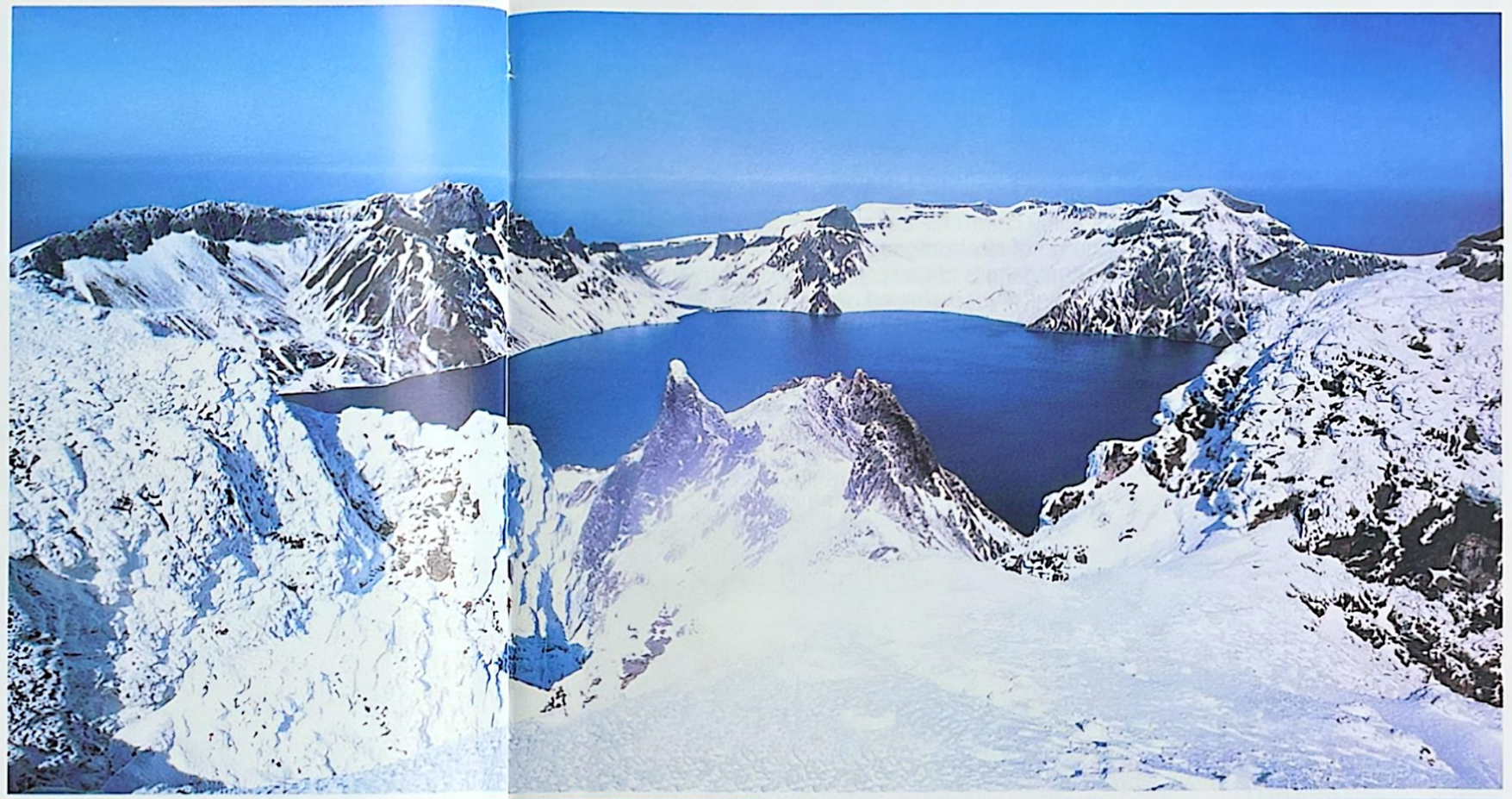
Paektu and Sagimun Falls rising in the lake unfold a mysterious alpine landscape.

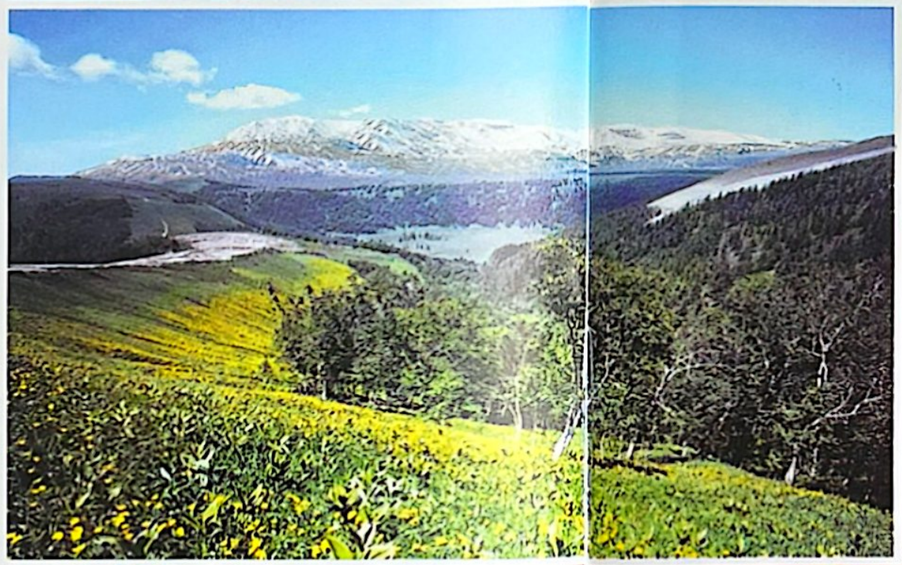
The celebrated mountain is featured by ever-changing weather. A fierce gale rises on the shore of placid Lake Chon all of a sudden, rocking heaven and earth and bringing rain clouds. But the next moment, dark clouds break up and the sun comes out. Falling rain is replaced by hail in no time; on one side, flowers wet with rain sparkle in the sunshine and on the other side, snowflakes fall. Such wonders of nature are seen innumerably.

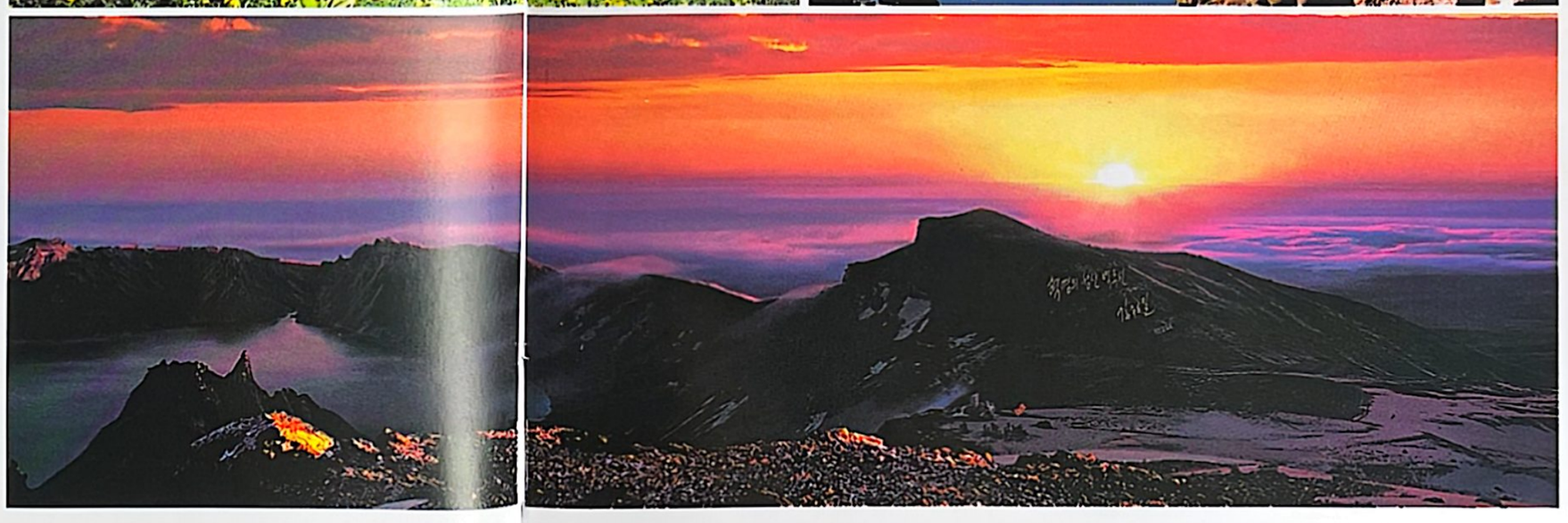
Standouts are rhododendrons blooming in snow, chars in Lake Chon, and Paektu and Paegam spas.

Mt. Paektu is associated with the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and led by President Kim Il Sung to liberate the country and is a sublime mountain of the Korean revolution where Chairman Kim Jong Il's native home is.

It was registered as an international biosphere preserve in Juche 78 (1989).







Mt. Kumgang

Mt. Kumgang is situated in the east of the Korean peninsula. It opens out diverse, magnificent and beautiful scenery in a vast area. It is called one of the most celebrated mountains as it is blessed with 12 000 peaks, myriads of fantastic rocks and soaring cliffs, deep gorges, spectacular falls, pools associated with legends and superb scenic beauty of seashore, which go well with each other.

The mountain is divided into three sections—Inner Kumgang, Outer Kumgang and Sea Kumgang—according to the type of landscape.

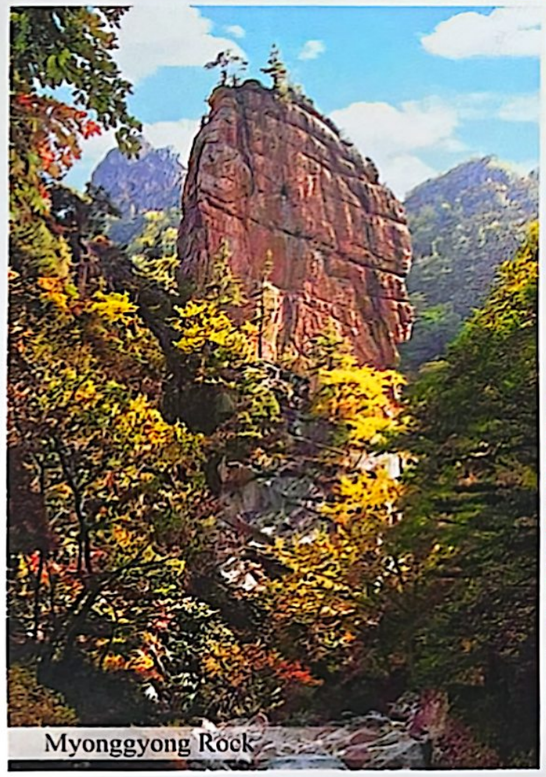
Inner Kumgang is characterized by feminine charm for the soft and graceful scenery of Manphok Valley boasting the beauty of gorge of Mt. Kumgang of Piro Peak, Myonggyong Rock and Paekthap Valley whereas Outer Kumgang is of masculine appeal for the majestic mountain beauty represented by Manmulsang (myriad-shaped peaks), Jipson Peak, Kuryong Pool, Upper Eight Pools, Sujong Peak, Ongnyu Valley, Sibi Falls and the like.

Sea Kumgang unrolls a spectacle of symphony of thrilling seascape, peaks, rocks and lakes.

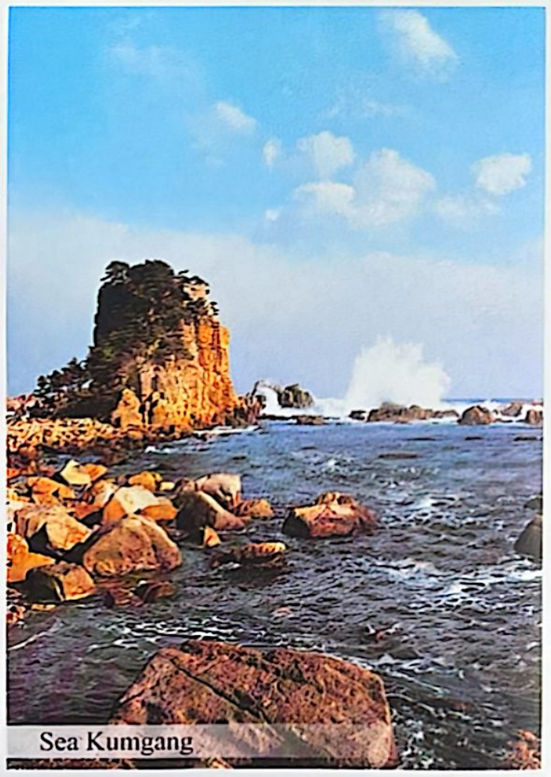
In the mountains grow rare plants like Kumgang *Stephanandra incisa* and *Hanabusaya asiatica Nakai*, which are found in one and only genus and species in the world.

A foreign poet said: "Don't talk about any celebrated mountain in the world before seeing Mt. Kumgang."

Jipson Peak



Myonggyong Rock



Sea Kumgang

Mt. Myohyang

Mt. Myohyang is situated in the northwest of Korea. The highest peak of Piro is 1 909 metres high.

Majestic and queer peaks, crystal-clear water, falls, dense forest, the lovely fragrance of flowers, leaves dyed in autumnal tints, babbling creeks and chirping birds—all these go well with each other to present a fantastic view.

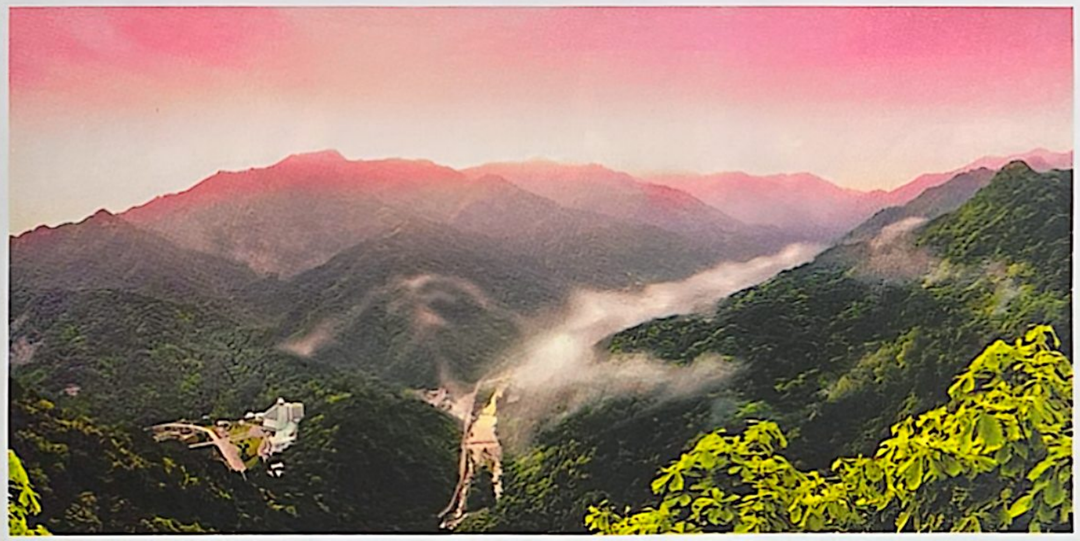
Spectacles include Piro, Wonmang, Chonthap and Hyangro Peaks and Inho and Paegun Rocks.

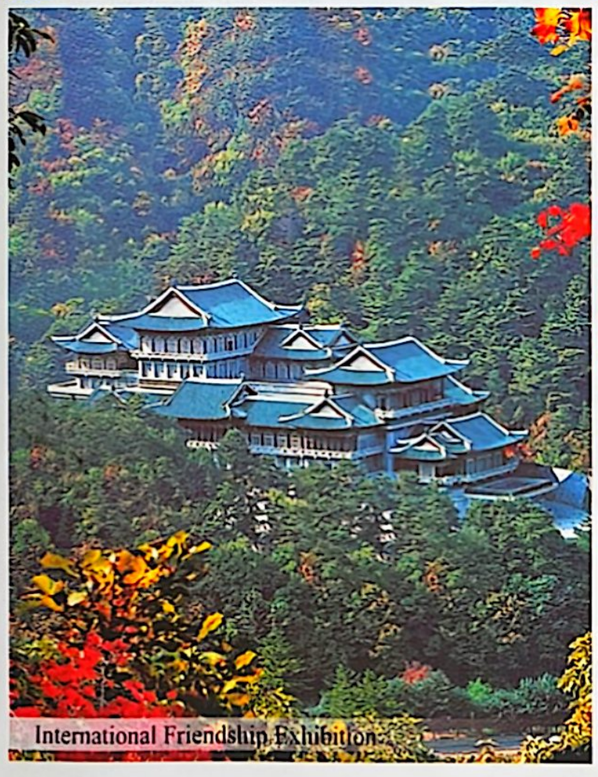
Between peaks and cliffs there are valleys, deep and narrow, such as Sangwon, Munsu, Manphok, Chonthae and Chilsong Valleys, and Pison, Kumgang, Taeha, Sanju, Ryongyon, Kuchung and Isonnam Falls are also splendid.

A lot of historical remains are preserved in the mountain. There are the Pohyon Temple showcasing the architecture of Korea in the early 11th century, the Puryong Hall which had housed the Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty, one of Korea's typical historical records, the archives of "80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures" and many other remains.

In the area particularly there is the International Friendship Exhibition House, preserving the gifts sent to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il from many countries in the world.

Besides, Mts. Chilbo and Kuwol, two of the six noted mountains in Korea, are also scenic attractions for their unique mountain and gorge beauty and seascape charm.





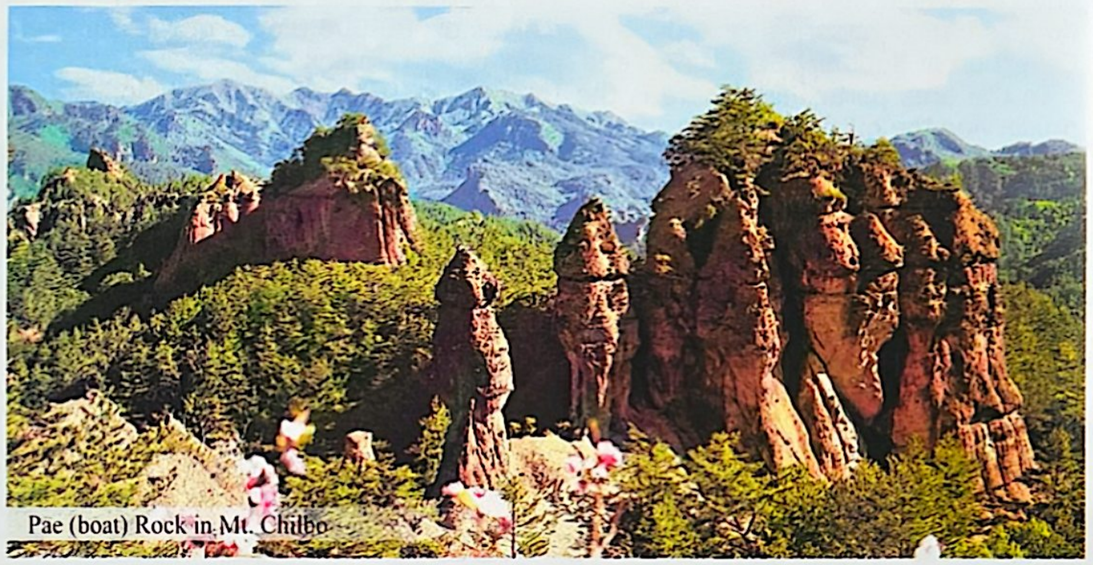
International Friendship Exhibition

Mt. Chilbo

From olden times Mt. Chilbo is called "Kumgang in North Hamgyong Province" for combination of the beautiful mountain and seascape. It lies ranging over Myongchon, Hwadae, Myonggan and Orang Counties of North Hamgyong Province.

Mt. Chilbo has the area of over 250 km² and its main peak, Chonbul Peak, is 659 m high. The magnificent look of the mountain boasting of graceful peaks, deep ravines, falls, ponds, woods and seascape and sculpture-like steep rocks are so picturesque and precious that the people named it Mt. Chilbo. (meaning seven treasures)

The unique scenery of the mountain varies with the localities and is divided into Inner Chilbo, Outer Chilbo, and Sea Chilbo, according to the features.



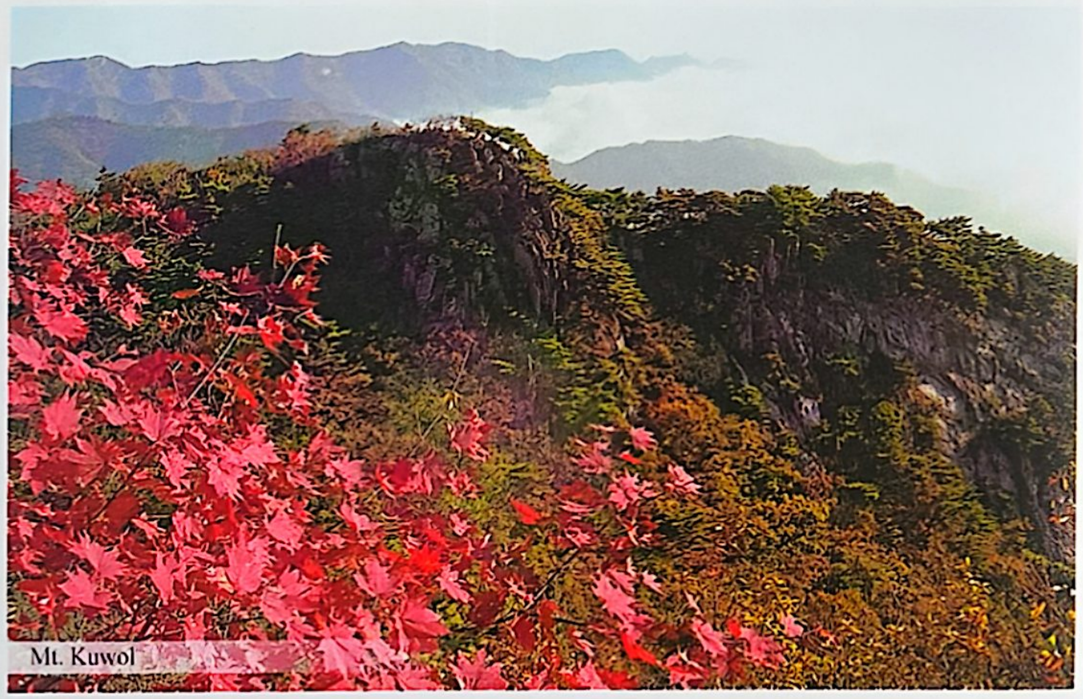
Pae (boat) Rock in Mt. Chilbo

Mt. Kuwol

It lies on the border area between Unryul and Anak Counties, South Hwanghae Province.

The mountain features steep crags, deep lush ravines, deep blue pond, limpid roaring fords weaving along the ravines and white waterfalls. They blend well with one another, unfolding an unusual natural beauty of hills and ravines.

Mt. Kuwol is one of the six famous mountains that has been known to the Korean people from olden times.



Mt. Kuwol

Celebrated Waterfalls

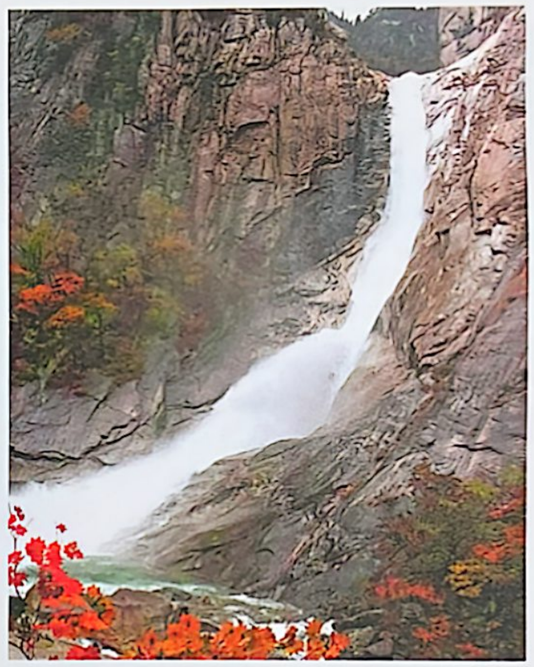
Kuryong Falls

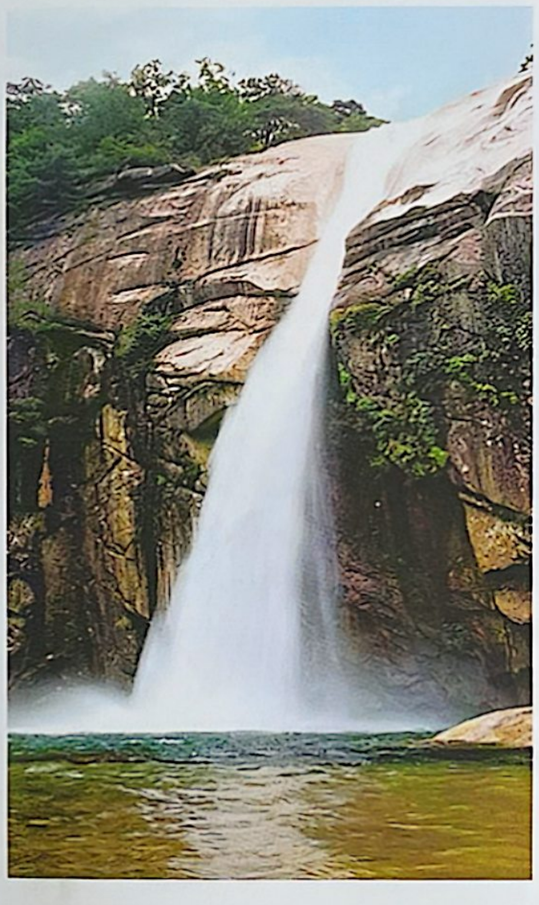
Kuryong Falls 74 metres high are in Mt. Kumgang.

Under the falls is Kuryong Pool 13 metres deep and the Kuryong Pavilion stands on the granite cliff of the falls. Under the pavilion is seen a gorge along which clear water streams down to the Upper Eight Pools associated with a legend of eight fairies who came down from Heaven to take a bath in them, fascinated by the beautiful scene.

Pine trees on cliffs and a chain of rocks in various shapes add a touch of charm to the falls.

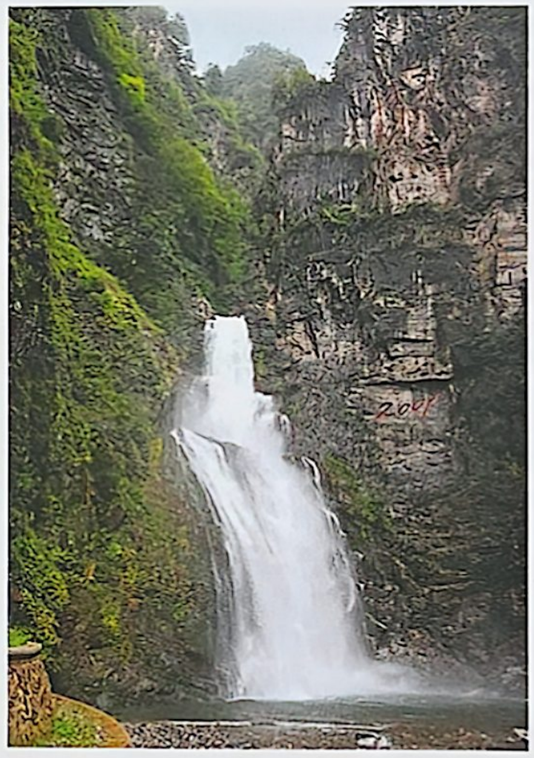
The clear water of Kuryong Falls is called mineral water as it contains various minerals.





Pagyon Falls

Pagyon Falls 37 metres high are located between Mt. Chonma and Mt. Songgo in Kaesong City in the middle of Korea. Over the falls is Pagyon Pool 8 metres in diameter and in the middle of it is an insular rock. Under the falls is Komo Pool 40 metres in diameter, on the shore of which stands the Pomsa Pavilion. Around the falls there are about 10-kilometre-long old walls, Taehungsan Fort and Kwanum and Taehung Temples, which add a touch of antiquity to the scene.



Ullim Falls

Ullim Falls are located on the border between Munchon City, Chonnae County and Poptong County, Kangwon Province. They are 63 metres high, 5 metres wide and two-tiered. Twenty to twenty-five cubic metres of water cascade down per second. The pool under the falls is 1.5 metres deep and about 30 metres in radius.

Lakes and Seaside Sights

Lake Samji

Lake Samji is in the Paektu lava area. It consists of three small lakes. Originally there was a river. But it was blocked by basalt and pumice as Mt. Paektu erupted to form the three ponds. Out of them, the largest is 2.54 kilometres in circumference and 3 metres deep.

The lake is as beautiful as a picture—the chain of the Paektu Mountains dimly seen as mist lifts at dawn, larch and white birch forests around the lake, clear water mirroring them, sandy beach, azalea blossoms, grazing deer and roe deer in flocks.

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle Commander Kim Il Sung had a rest here on his way to the Musan area, leading the main force of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

Here is a monument consisting of group stone sculptures of guerrillas and a beacon tower, centring on his bronze statue.

Lagoon Samil

Lagoon Samil is situated in Kosong County, Kangwon Province on the east coast of Korea.

The lagoon 5.8 kilometres in circumference is bounded by 36 hillocks on the north; Samilpho Kumgang Gate, a big stone gate, on the northwest and Sea Kumgang of Mt. Kumgang on the southeast.

There are Wau Islet covered with pine trees in the middle of the lagoon and the remains such as the Sason Pavilion and Musondae. The placid lake mirroring peaks around it is really a sight to behold.

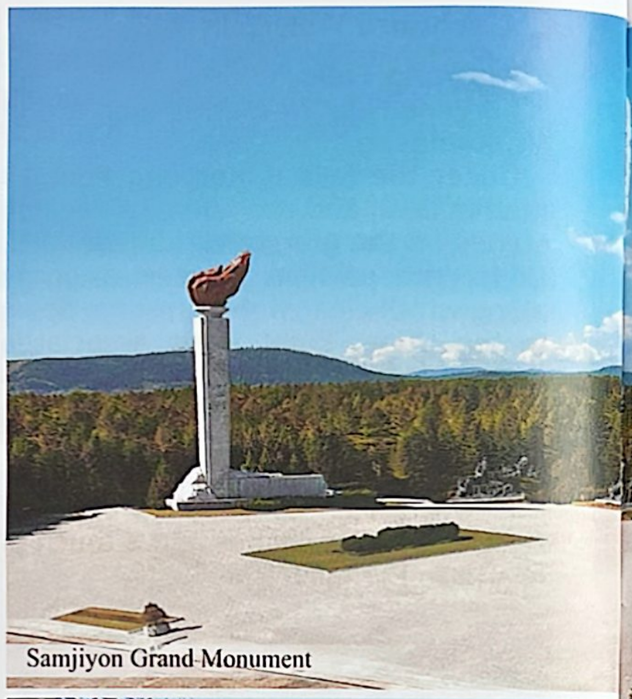
It is said that in old times a king came here to have a good day, but stayed here for three days, mesmerized by its gorgeous view, hence the name Lagoon Samil, three days in Korean.

Lake Sijung

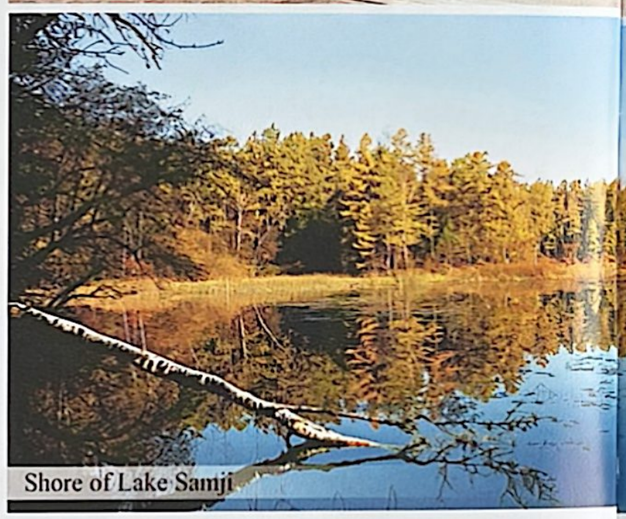
Lake Sijung in Thongchon County, Kangwon Province, is also one of scenic spots on the east coast.

The serene natural lake—thick pine woods on the shore and gentle ripples—is more beautiful on moonlit night, creating a quiet and peaceful mood.

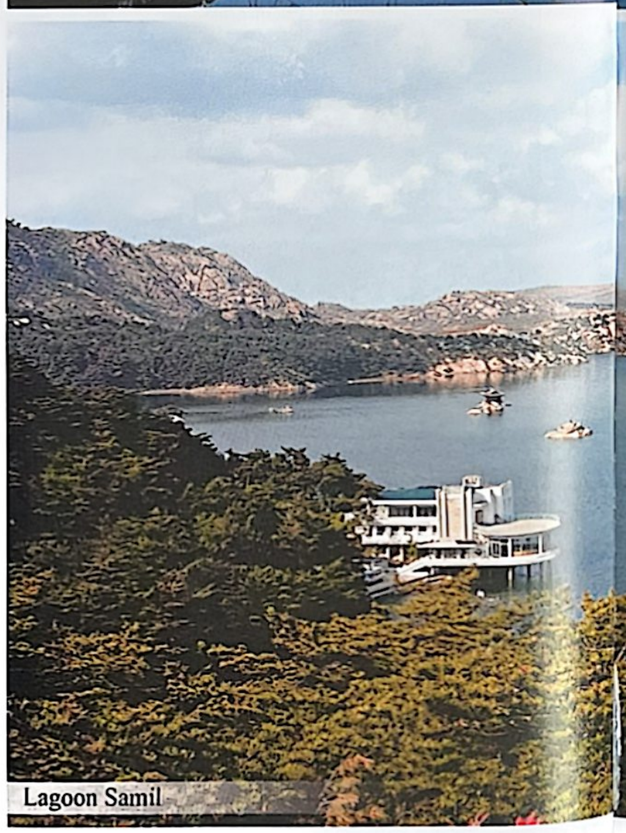
The mud of the lake is widely known for its high remedial value.



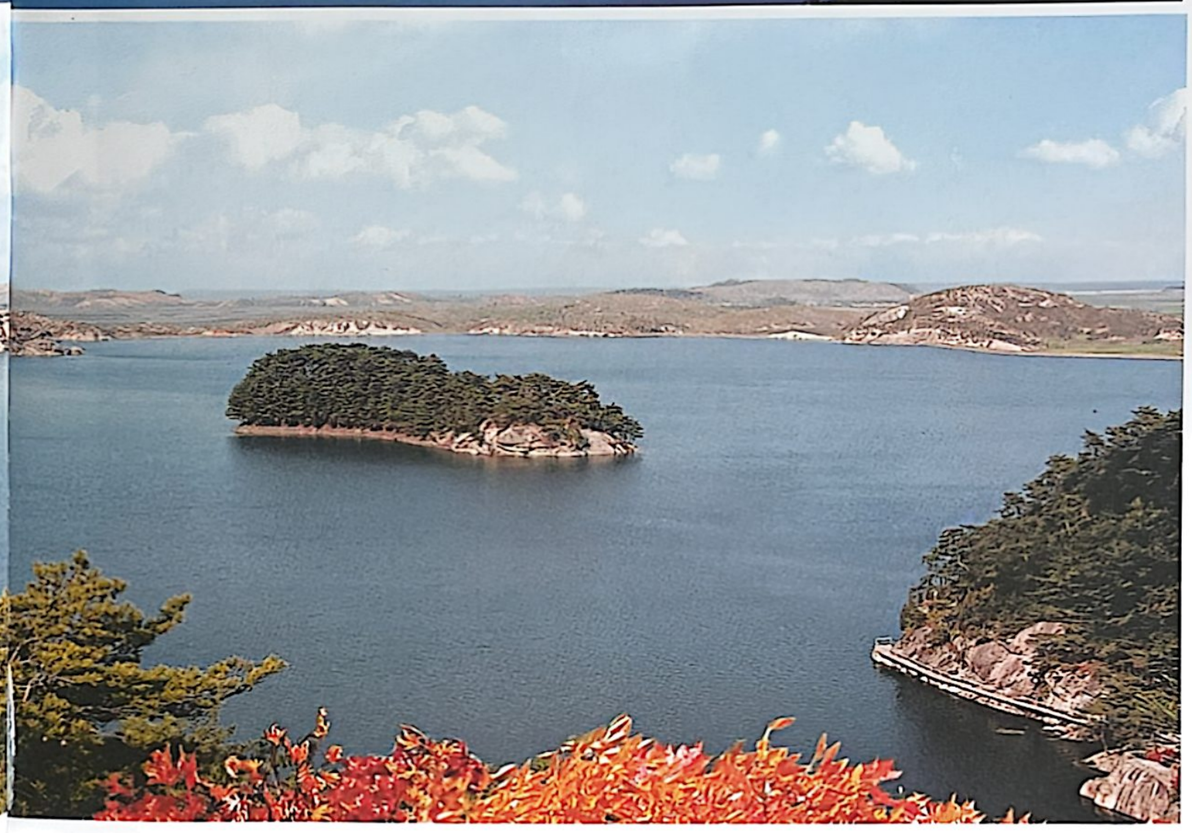
Samjiyon Grand Monument



Shore of Lake Samji



Lagoon Samil



Songdowon

Songdowon, a seashore scenic attraction in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, is a recreation ground covering an area of 200 hectares. There is a sandy beach hundreds of metres wide and several kilometres long.

Fragrant briars bloom red on the beach. The seashore lapped by gentle waves is a good bathing resort. The pine groves near the beach provide welcome shade, and there are sporting and amusement facilities, pavilions, bridge and the like.

Songdowon

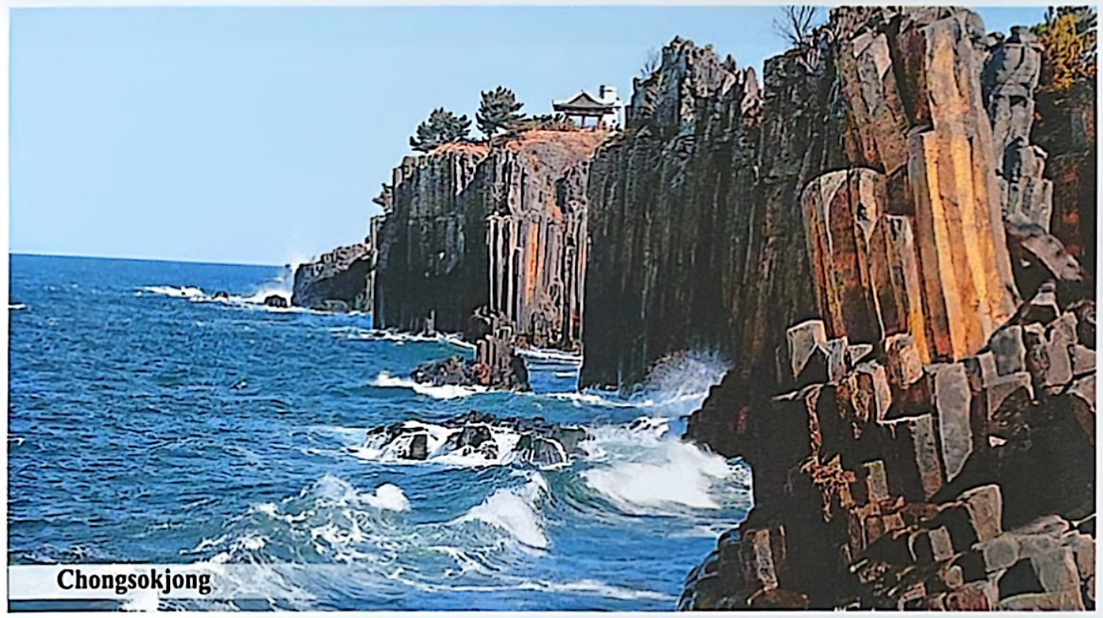
Chongsokjong

Chongsokjong is a scenic attraction on the seashore in Thongchon County, Kangwon Province.

Chongsok, which means stone group, consists of hexagonal or octagonal basalt pillars formed by volcanic action and long weathering processes. They stretch 1 000 metres along the shore in the shape of standing, sitting and lying columns.

Of them, four columns are dozens of metres high each and called Sason (four spirits) Peak as a legend has it that in olden times four spirits played on top of them as they are so mysterious and beautiful like polished jade.

It is fascinating to see sunrise over Chongsokjong, majestic rock columns on the blue sea, pine trees rooting in cracks of rocks and the nocturnal view suffused by silvery moonlight.



Chongsokjong

Monggumpho

Monggumpho, another scenic attraction on the seashore, is located in Ryongyon County, South Hwanghae Province on the west coast of Korea.

Silvery sandy beach, green pines and red sweet briars are beautiful. South of it there are fantastic rocks including rocks in the shape of elephant and rocky cliffs and whale. All these present scenery as spectacular as Chongsokjong and Sea Kumgang on the east coast.

Monggumpho is 2 kilometres wide from north to south and 8 kilometres long from east to west. The sand is widely known to the world for the high quality.

Underground Scenic Beauty

Ryongmun Cave

Ryongmun Cave in Kujang County, North Phyongan Province, is a karst cave in the limestone area formed in the lower Palaeozoic sub-era hundreds of millions of years ago. It is 6 km long and consists of two main caves and many branch grottos.

There are the Sokhwa and Paekhwa Sections representing all kinds of flowers in nature, the Kumgang Section depicting 12 000 peaks, Eight Pools and waterfalls in Mt. Kumgang, and the Paektusan Secret Camp Section showing Jong Il Peak, vast forests and Mt. Paektu behind them.

The cave, blessed with stalactites, stone flowers and stalagmite, unfolds scenes in every cave and grotto—Posok section reminiscent of glittering gems on the 120 square metres of ceiling, Chonsang Ragwon Section presenting a picturesque view of Samsonam Falls 30 metres high and Ryongmun Square with an area of 3 600 square metres.

Ryongmun Cave

Songam Cavern

Songam Cavern in Kaechon City, South Phyongan Province in the west of Korea, consists of 16 sections and over 70 scenic spots.

The stone gate in the Kwanmun Section leads to Tolmun Falls and then to the Phokpho Section. The sound of the waterfall is thrilling, rainbow trouts swim in the pool under it filled with dozens of cubic metres of water and life figures of "sea urchin", "crocodile", "carp", "lobster" and "squid" are seen between falls.

The cavern has a lot of scenic spots including the Kiam Section showing rocks in the shape of "dove", "hawk", "eagle", "sword" and "wing of steed", roaring ten-tiered stone falls, the Solgyong Section with dazzling snowscape, the Unha and Surim Sections presenting the figure of the Galaxy and forests and the Paekhwa and Kungjon Sections with stone flowers.

Songam Cavern

Climate

Korea is located in the temperate zone and all four seasons—spring, summer, autumn and winter—are clearly defined.

The average annual temperature is 10 degrees centigrade and average annual precipitation is 1 000 to 1 200 millimetres.

The climate is influenced by typical seasonal winds. In winter clear weather prevails due to the cold northwest winds, and in summer, south and southeast winds blow in, bringing heavy rainfall, and sultry weather lingers on, whereas in spring and autumn, the continental and oceanic seasonal winds alternate each other, thereby the direction of wind is indefinite and warm and clear weather is prevalent.

Hydrology

Compared with the size of territory, Korea has many rivers and streams and a dense river network.

There are thousands of small and medium rivers. The Amnok, Tuman, Taedong, Raktong and Han Rivers are called five long rivers in Korea and those plus the Chongchon, Ryesong, Kum, Somjin and Yongsan Rivers are called ten long rivers. The Amnok (803 kilometres) is the longest in Korea, having the widest area of basin (64 739.8 square kilometres).

There are over 100 natural lakes and 1 700 artificial lakes. The latter are used for irrigation, power generation, flood control, industrial and urban water supply, transport, fish farming, landscaping and so on.

Noted man-made lakes are Lakes Suphung, Jangjin and Thaechon for power generation and Lakes Unpha, Sohung, Yonphung, Thaesong and Paengma for irrigation and Lake Kumsong for flood control.

There are many mineral springs. North Hamgyong and South Hwanghae Provinces have lots of hot spas, whereas North Phyongan and Jagang Provinces are blessed with mineral waters.

There are one hundred and scores of famous hot springs including Paektu, Yangdok, Talchon, Kyongsong and Onpho spas and Kangso, Ongnyu, Myohyangsan, Sogwangsa and Yodok mineral waters. All have bicarbonates as main component, of which spas have sodium bicarbonate as main component and mineral waters have calcium bicarbonate as main component.

Onpho Spa

Onpho Spa is located in Onpho-ri, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province. It was discovered about 500 years ago. Thousands of tons of water gushes out of tens of spring outlets a day. The water temperature is 57 degrees centigrade. It is efficacious for the cure and prevention of neuralgia, neuritis, arthritis, hypertension, dermatitis and chronic eczema.

Kangso Mineral Water

The spring is situated in Yaksu-ri, Kangso District, Nampho City. The water temperature is 7 to 15 degrees centigrade. It is highly effective for curing such chronic troubles as gastritis, hepatitis, pyelitis, cystitis, mouth disorders, enteritis and colitis and gastric and duodenal ulcer.

As the production centre has been expanded and the quantity has increased, the mineral water is supplied to Pyongyang and local areas.

Sindok Spring Water

The spring is in Onchon County, Nampho City and widely known to the world. Residents in this area drinking the water live for over 100 years.

Fauna and Flora

Fauna

The animal species that have been registered up to now amount to 8 465, of which 1 434 are vertebrates. Beasts species number 97, birds 394, reptiles 27, amphibians 14, and fish over 850. There are over 20 species of animals indigenous to Korea including tiger, water-deer, white-bellied black woodpecker, fairy pitta, *Eumeces coreensis*, three-striped snake and *Rana plancyi Lataste*.

White-bellied Black Woodpecker

White-bellied black woodpecker belonging to *Picidae* is an all-season bird indigenous to Korea. The body is black, the breast, belly and sides are white and the crest of cock is red. It produces peculiar sound as it flies. Originally, these birds inhabited the southern half of the Republic, but as the forests of that region were devastated they moved to the area of Pongchon County, South Hwanghae Province in the northern half of Korea to dwell there. Since the area was set as their sanctuary they have multiplied and the area of their distribution has been extended further northwards.

Korean Tiger

Korean tiger is bigger, swifter and more valiant than other subspecies and its fur is beautiful in pattern.

It is 2.8 metres long and weighs 160 to 306 kilograms and its tail is about 95 centimetres long.

The back is yellow maroon and the belly and the insides of the four legs are white. Over the forehead there is a dark pattern in the shape of Chinese character 王, meaning a king. There are 24 black stripes on the back and 5 on the belly and 8 stripe patterns on the tail.

The tigers live in the northern mountainous areas of Korea, Northeast China and Primorsky of Russia.

Flora

There are 9 548 species of plants in Korea. Among them, higher plants are 4 280 species and lower plants 5 268 species. The flora is very diverse in the composition of species.

The species of major economic plants amount to nearly 2 170. There are 100 species of plants for timber, 900 species of medicinal plants, 300 species of wild vegetables, 30 species of wild fruits, 160 species of plants for animal fodder, 60 species of aromatic plants, 50 species of oil plants, 170 species of plants bearing honey, 100 species of fibre plants, and 300 species of plants for gardening. There are over 800 species of indigenous plants including *Kumgang Stephanandra incisa* and *Hanabusaya asiatica Nakai* that are known as a single genus and single species to the world, plus their varieties. There are also such rare plants as wild *insam*, *Ganoderma*, *songi* mushroom, and blueberry.

Kaesong Koryo *Insam*

World-renowned Kaesong Koryo *insam* has remarkable pharmaceutical efficacy for the special quality of soil and water and meteorological factors specific to the Kaesong area. It contains some ten kinds of glucoside good for health and longevity, ethereal oil, different kinds of amino acids including organic acid, vitamins and an appropriate quantity of radium and microelements.

Insam has omnipotent efficacy for many diseases as it protects five viscera and promotes metabolism by acting on the brain, afterbrain and the vascular system. There is growing demand for it for its anti-radioactivity and anticancer action.

Hundreds of kinds of products are made of *insam* including decoction, essence, *insam* injection, nutrition tablets, wine, cream and toothpaste. In particular, *insam* wine was so highly praised worldwide that it was given a gold medal several times.

Ganoderma

Ganoderma growing in Mt. Paektu belongs to Polyporaceae. It is a mushroom with high medicinal efficacy. It contains 3.6% steroid compound, 1.5% flavonoid, 0.2% glucoside, 0.8% coumarin and 0.5% alkaloid.

Ganoderma is not only good tonic, but also a cure for hypotension, nervous breakdown, hepatitis, neuralgia, and arthritis.

***Songi* Mushroom**

It is the best among edible mushrooms of over 100 species growing in Korea and has been renowned for its aroma, flavour and nutritious value from olden times. The mushroom and its processed goods are popular in great demand in international market.

Blueberry in Mt. Paektu

It is massively found in the Mt. Paektu area centring on Samjiyon County.

Scores of its processed foodstuffs are lovely in colour and very aromatic. Among them Paektusan Blueberry Wine is famous.

Sea

Korea is a maritime country bounded by the sea on three sides—east, west and south—where there are the East Sea, West Sea and South Sea of Korea.

Tidelands are remarkably developed: they cover an area of 4 923.8 square kilometres, or 496 487 hectares, on the west coast and 434.1 square kilometres or 43 771 hectares on the south coast.

As tidelands are reclaimed, the territorial area increases, but islands decreases.

The continental shelf is also extensive. The overall area of the West Sea of Korea is the continental shelf 118 metres deep. The area of the continental shelf in the South Sea of Korea amounts to 136 900 square kilometres.

West Sea Barrage

With the construction of the West Sea Barrage, a grand monumental edifice in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea, on the sea off Nampho in the West Sea of Korea, there came into being locks navigable for ships of tens of thousands of tons and tens of sluices as well as fishways. The Taedong River turned into a large reservoir, the problem of industrial, irrigation and drinking waters in the lower reaches of the river was fully solved, a wide prospect for the development of transport was opened up and the landscape of the shore improved.

Taegyedo Reclaimed Tideland

The Taegyedo reclaimed tideland on the west coast in North Phyongan Province has an area of 8 800 hectares. It is used as arable land, fish ponds, salt pans, etc.

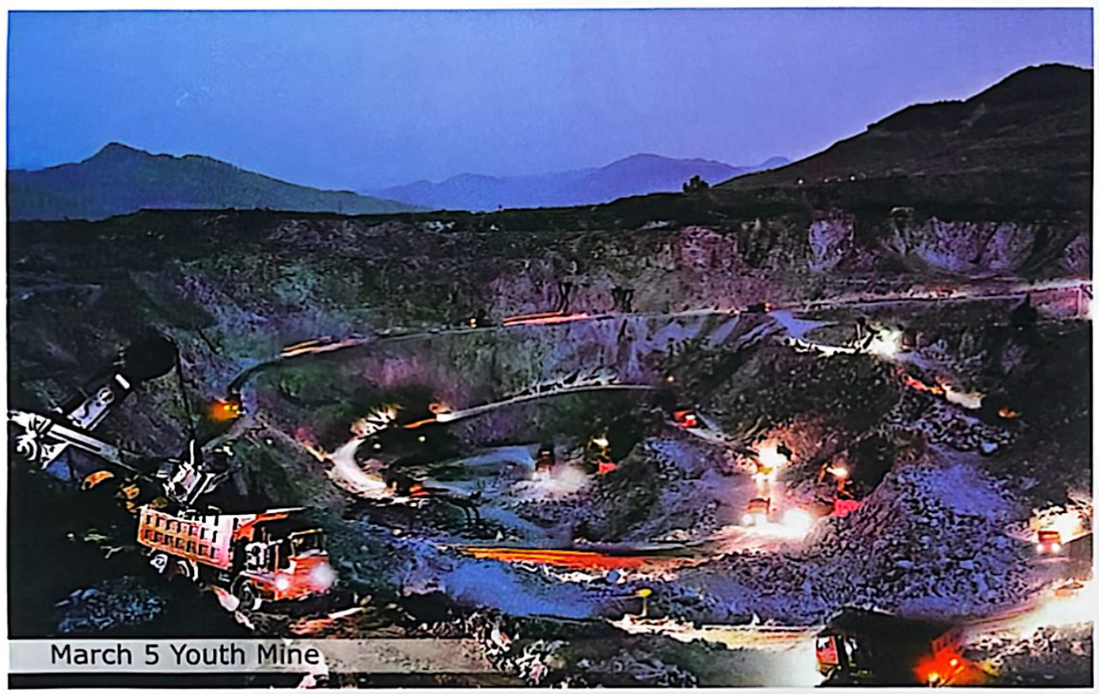
Underground Resources

Korea is known as a "gallery of minerals". It has over 400 kinds of minerals underground. Of them, over 200 kinds are of great industrial significance.

Korea abounds in ferrous and non-ferrous metal resources like iron ore, manganese, chromium, titanium, copper, lead, zinc, nickel, tungsten, molybdenum and gold. Iron ore deposits amount to billions of tons and rare earth resources in great demand worldwide are also found in profusion.

In many regions are inexhaustibly deposited such non-metals as magnesite, asbestos, graphite, limestone, apatite, mica, kaolin, granite, marble and silica and such inflammables as anthracite, brown coal and oil shale. It is also rich in geothermal resources. The Ongjin and Paechon areas are the typical sources of them. The temperature of mineral spring water on the ground in the Ongjin area is over 100 degrees centigrade and that in the Paechon area about 70 degrees centigrade.

Chonsong Youth Coal Mine



March 5 Youth Mine

Magnesite

Magnesite is distributed in the areas of Tanchon of South Hamgyong Province, Paegam and Unhung of Ryanggang Province and Kim Chaek of North Hamgyong Province, and Korea is renowned for its large deposits and good quality.

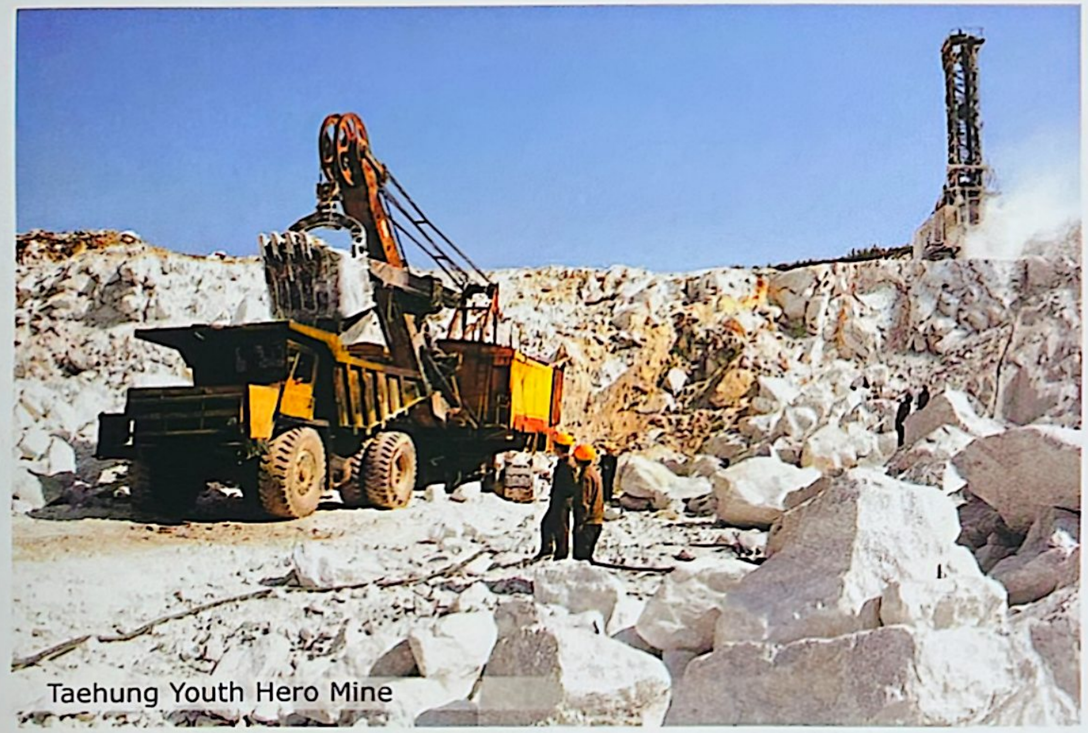
Modern magnesite-processing plants in the Tanchon area mass-produce high-grade magnesia clinker and various other goods.

A modern port was recently built in Tanchon to meet the international demand for the processed goods of magnesite.

Graphite

Graphite is inexhaustibly deposited in several regions of Korea.

Korea tops the world in graphite deposits and quality.



Taehung Youth Hero Mine

Samchong Mine of the Sangwon Cement Complex

Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

The Economy

Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism

Primitive Ages

Humans on the Korean peninsula originated in the Taedong River basin centring on Pyongyang in the primitive ages.

The fossil bones of animals eaten by apemen and stone implements were unearthed at the Komunmoru Site in Sangwon County near Pyongyang. They date back to the Lower Palaeolithic era, or one million years ago. The primitive men lived in groups, forming a primitive community, the first social organizations.

The remains of "Ryokpho man", "Tokchon man" and "Hwadae man" who had lived in the Middle Palaeolithic era were also discovered. "Hwadae man", who was recently excavated in Soksong-ri, Hwadae County, North Hamgyong Province, was a palaeoanthropic man who had lived 300 000 years ago.

The remains of "Sungnisan man", "Mandal man" and "Hwangju man", who were neanthropic men in the Upper Palaeolithic era, show the anthropological succession from apemen to palaeoanthropic and neanthropic men in Korea in the primitive ages and provide the scientific evidence that the Taedong River basin centring on Pyongyang is one of the cradles of humankind.

The Korean Homo sapiens in the Neolithic era had lived in dugouts, farming and raising domestic animals.

The ancestors of the Korean nation had already entered the Bronze Age in the latter half of the fourth millennium B.C. and created the advanced ancient civilization, "Taedonggang Civilization", early in the 30th century B.C.

The long primitive ages ended with the emergence of state in the wake of the transition from matriarchy to patriarchy.

Komunmoru Site

This archaeological site belonging to the Lower Palaeolithic era is in the cave in Huguri of Sangwon County, North Hwanghae Province, adjoining Pyongyang Municipality.

Discovered in the cave, about 30 metres long from east to west and nearly 2.5 metres wide from north to south, were stone implements and fossil bones of animals of 29 animal species. Of them, 17 species had already been extinct.

Most of them had lived between the late Pleistocene and early middle Pleistocene. There were also animals of the earlier period including Mimomys (field mouse), Sangwon horse and hyena with short jaw. The appraisal of the shapes of stone implements such as hand axe and trapezoidal, pointed and chipped tools, the methods of making them and fossilized animal bones showed that they date back to the period one million years ago.

Ancient Times

Ancient Joson, the first state of the Korean nation, was founded by Tangun. It was set up in the early 30th century B.C. and existed for approximately 3 000 years until 108 B.C.

It was a power in the East which occupied a vast area of Northeast Asia, centring on Pyongyang.

The appearance of Tangun's Joson put an end to the long primitive ages and the Korean nation established one of the first states in the East, greeting the era of civilization.

The emergence of Ancient Joson almost coincided with that of ancient states built in the Nile River basin and Mesopotamia known as the cradles of human civilization.

In the mid-15th century B.C. Puyo occupying the vast area of the Songhua River basin and Kuryo covering the area comprising the Hun River and the middle reaches of the Amnok River emerged as ancient states respectively, seceding from Tangun's Joson. In the 12th century B.C. Jinguk was also established in the central and southern part of the Korean peninsula.

People of the ancient states including Tangun's Joson did farming mainly and increased productivity by developing handicraft, stockbreeding, fishing, etc.

They developed bronze metallurgy from the early period and made lute-shaped daggers and spearheads, narrow bronze daggers and spearheads, bronze dirks, axes, chisels and other weapons and tools, such trinkets as fine-striped mirrors and a variety of harness.

In the later period of Ancient Joson, ironware was widely used with the progress of iron- and steel-making technologies.

The *Sinji* characters indigenous to the Korean nation were used; simple philosophical views on the origin of the world were advanced; astrometeorology was developed and the techniques of weaving silk, hemp and woollen fabrics were at a high level.

Ancient Joson also witnessed a boost in song and dance, instrumental music, acrobatics, painting, sculpture and industrial arts, and bronze and gilt-bronze craftsmanship was in a considerably high standard.

King Tangun and His Mausoleum

Tangun had been known as a mythical being and Tangun's Joson had been known only as a legend.

It was partly attributable to the fact that he had been deified by ancestors and mainly due to the Japanese imperialists who militarily occupied Korea (1905–1945) and tried to obliterate King Tangun.

President Kim Il Sung, founder of socialist Korea, gave instructions on many occasions to make sure that an in-depth study of Tangun was made, correcting many distorted historical events and details.

In the course of excavations [February Juche 82 (1993)], the bones and relics of Tangun were unearthed and he was scientifically proved to be a real person who was born 5011±267 years ago.

Tangun was born a son of the chief of a tribe in the Kangdong area of Pyongyang and practised martial arts hard from his childhood.

At the age of 25, he became the chief, succeeding his father. He reorganized the political machinery of the primitive community to establish a new ruling system, thus founding Ancient Joson, the first slaveholding state.

An estimate showed that he had lived for over 60 years, unusually great age at the time.

The Mausoleum of King Tangun was rebuilt in a majestic way at the foot of Mt. Taebak in Munhung-ri, Kangdong County in October Juche 83 (1994). Covering an area of 45 hectares, it is divided into the sections of the reconstructed monument, stone sculptures and tomb.

The tomb is 22 metres high and each side of it is 50 metres long. It was constructed with 1 994 pieces of stones, the biggest of which weighs 21 tons.

The three stone gates, 1.2 tons each, at the back of the tomb lead to the chamber, where the bones of King Tangun and his wife are enshrined in the special transparent glass coffin.

Taedonggang Civilization

In the Taedong River basin centring on Pyongyang were excavated lots of cultural remains and relics including lute-shaped daggers and spearheads characteristic of the culture of the period of Tangun's Joson, tomb in which slaves were buried alive with their dead master, star-shaped and crescent axes and other stone weapons, the site of Hwangdae Fort and dolmens.

The tomb with slaves buried alive together with their dead master unearthed in Ryongsan-ri consists of ten small chambers for about 30 slaves around the master's large chamber.

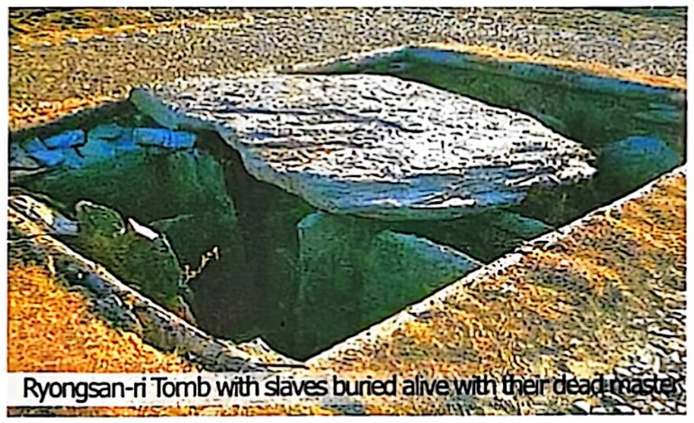
The Hwangdae Fort in Kangdong County, where the Mausoleum of Tangun is located, is about 300 metres in circumference, 10 metres wide at the bottom of the wall and 5 metres at the top.

According to the findings of excavation, there were over 14 000 dolmens in the Pyongyang area, and of them, extra-big dolmens for slave owners amount to 16.

Gourd-shaped pots show the aspect of development of earthenware in those days.

The academic circles designated the unique culture which was created and developed in the Taedong River basin as Taedonggang Civilization.

The Taedonggang Civilization made an outstanding contribution to ancient human civilization.



Ryongsan-ri Tomb with slaves buried alive with their dead master

Narrow brass dagger

Middle Ages

Through the struggle of the people for independence slave states in Korea began to give way to feudal ones from the early 3rd century B.C.

Koguryo was the first feudal state of the Korean nation, which was set up in 277 B.C. Ko Ju Mong was the founder-king.

It had made rapid progress in the military affairs, the economy, culture and other fields.

In the mid-1st century Koguryo occupied a territory extending for 800 kilometres in all directions. After the 4th century it expanded its territory southward. In 427 it moved its capital to Pyongyang from Jian.

In those days Koguryo was a powerful country with a vast territory of 2 400 kilometres from east to west and some 2 000 kilometres from north to south.

In the southern area of the Korean peninsula Paekje was established in the late 1st century B.C. and Silla was set up in the middle of the early 1st century.

The period until the mid-7th century when the three states existed is called the period of Three Kingdoms.

Paekje lasted until A.D. 660 and Koguryo until A.D. 668. In 698 Palhae came into being as the successor to Koguryo in the northern area and thereby the kingdom and later Silla in the southern area co-existed until the 10th century.

Afterwards, later Silla, later Paekje and Thaebongguk, called the later Three Kingdoms in history, were existent together in the former territory of later Silla.

In 918 Wang Kon of Thaebongguk established a new dynasty and merged it with later Paekje and later Silla and embraced the people of Palhae in the north, which was ruined by foreign forces. As a result the first united state of the Korean nation was built.

He set the capital at Kaegyong (today's Kaesong) and named the country Koryo in the meaning of succeeding Koguryo.

Koryo made it the mainstay of external policy to win back the old territory of Koguryo and channeled big efforts into building up the capital of Pyongyang politically, economically and militarily.

Koryo witnessed a remarkable growth in productivity, culture and other fields, with the result that it was widely known as "Corea" to the world.

It existed for nearly 500 years until 1392, the year of establishment of the feudal Joson dynasty, the last feudal state of the Korean nation.

And feudal Joson lasted for over 500 years until it was deprived of national sovereignty by the Japanese imperialists.

King Tongmyong and His Mausoleum

Mausoleum of King Tongmyong

King Tongmyong, the founder of Koguryo, was born in 298 B.C. His childhood name was Ju Mong, meaning crack archer.

After establishing the state he ruled it for 19 years and passed away in September 259 B.C. Later he was given the posthumous title of Sage King Tongmyong.

In 427 when the capital of Koguryo was moved from Kungnaesong, its second capital in Jian of Jilin Province, China, to Pyongyang, the tomb of the founder king was also moved to today's Ryokpho District in Pyongyang.

The Mausoleum of King Tongmyong was reconstructed in May Juche 82 (1993) on the occasion of his 2 290th birthday.

The mausoleum is divided into the sections of tomb, Jongnung Temple and the subjects' tombs.

One side of stone stereobate around the tomb is 34 metres long. In the tomb there is a chamber where the corpse was laid, which is 4.21 metres long from east to west, 4.18 metres long from north to south and 3.88 metres high from the floor to the ceiling.

On the walls and ceiling are drawn the lotus flower patterns.

Around the mausoleum there are 15 tombs of loyal subjects who helped Ko Ju Mong in establishing the country.

The Jongnung Temple covering an area of 37 000 square metres was constructed to pray for the repose of the soul of the late king.

King Wang Kon and His Mausoleum

Wang Kon, the founder king of Koryo, was born the son of Wang Ryung, head of the town of Songak (Kaesong area), in 877.

In 896 he became the lord of the castle in Kaesong and then absorbed several provinces and counties in the southwestern area, thereby building a strong base of Thaebongguk in the rear of later Paekje.

In 913 he was appointed as a high-ranking official of Thaebongguk and founded Koryo, a new dynasty, in 918.

The Mausoleum of King Wang Kon was rebuilt at the foot of Mt. Songak on the occasion of his 1 117th birthday. It consists of the tomb section in the Ryong Gate and the park section outside the gate. The Koguryo-style earthen tomb with stone chamber is 8 metres high. In the chamber is a coffin stand made of big stone slab and at the bottoms of left and right walls are long stands for relics. On the four walls are drawn bamboo, pine tree, blue dragon, white tiger, tortoise-serpent, etc.

Jade buckles, gilt-bronze seated images and other relics were unearthed from the tomb and the area around it.

Mausoleum of King Wang Kon

In the Middle Ages the Koreans waged an uninterrupted vigorous struggle for independence in the whole period of Koguryo, Koryo and the feudal Joson dynasty.

The famous patriotic generals, Ulji Mun Dok and Yon Kaesomun of Koguryo, Kang Kam Chan of Koryo and other generals and people added glorious pages to the history of struggle against aggression.

In the period of the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598), the Korean people dealt a heavy blow to the Japanese invaders in every part of the country. Under the command of Admiral Ri Sun Sin the Korean navy sank numerous warships of the enemy with the turtle-shaped ship, the first ironclad vessel in the world, and other ships. This was recorded in the world history of naval battles as a special event.

The Middle Ages witnessed remarkable progress of culture.

In the period of the Three Kingdoms there was great advance in astronomy, meteorology, geography, medicine, handicraft, architecture, fine arts and other sectors. Steel-made weapons, farm implements and daily necessities were massively manufactured and the workmanship of gold, silver and copper was in a high standard.

The mural paintings in Koguryo tombs including those in Anak Tomb No. 3 and the Kangso Three Tombs and the Chomsongdae observatories of Koguryo and Silla show the great creative abilities and artistic talents of the people in the period of Three Kingdoms.

The *Record of Travel to India*, which Hyecho wrote after traveling many countries in Southeast and Southwest Asia via India in the early 8th century, is one of the oldest trip accounts in the world.

The cultural development in the period of Koryo draws particular attention. The Koreans invented metal types for the first time in the world in the 12th century, hundreds of years earlier than the Germans and the Netherlanders, and made the "80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures" showing a high level of wood-block printing.

The pottery of Koryo, celadon in particular, was widely known to the world as a rare treasure.

Astronomy and meteorology were at a high level. Over 50 pieces of data on sunspot observed from 1105 belong to the oldest records of the world.

Medical books including *Hyangyakkugupbang* which prescribed medicines prepared mainly with medicinal herbs show the high level of medical development at the time.

In the period of the feudal Joson dynasty culture saw a further boost. In 1444 the Korean alphabet *Hunminjongum* was created and, on the basis of it, poetry and publication were brought to efflorescence.

In 1395 *Chonsangryolchabunyajido*, an adaptation of the astronomical chart made in the period of Koguryo, was brought out, in 1441 a rain gauge was invented for the first time in the world, in six years from 1432 astronomical observation instruments of 15 kinds including *kanui* were produced and in 1525 *mongnyun*, an old type of telescope, was devised.

Hyangyakjipsongbang, *Uibangryuchwi* and *Tonguibogam* which were brought out during the feudal Joson dynasty are still recognized as valuable medical books.

In addition, highly-effective firearms and other weapons using gunpowder and chariots were made and turtle-shaped ship, the first ironclad vessel in the world, was built.

History of Koryo, *Taedongyo Map* and other books on history and geography and maps were printed and lots of literary, art, music and dance masterpieces were created.

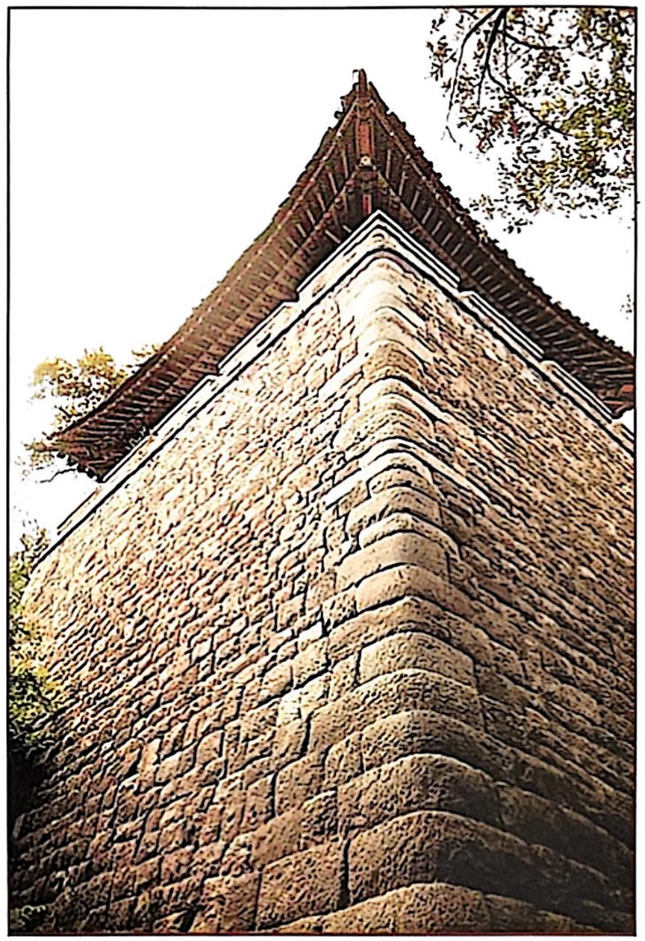
Standouts included novel *The Tale of Chun Hyang*, song *Arirang* and dance *Pongsan Masque Dance*.

In the latter half of the 17th century commodity-money relations achieved rapid growth and in the mid-18th century capitalist relations emerged and developed.

In the 19th century, social and class conflict got aggravated due to the corruption and incompetency of the feudal state, thereby the peasants' war in Phyongan Province between 1811 and 1812 and other peasants' uprising broke out one after another, shaking the feudal ruling system to the roots.

The medieval history of Korea spanning some 2 000 years from the 3rd century B.C. to the mid-19th century ended and the Korean nation greeted modern times.

Walled City of Pyongyang



The Walled City of Pyongyang was built in the period between 552 and 586 after Koguryo moved its capital to Pyongyang in 427. The walls were erected along the areas with plains and low hills and they were favourable for defence as they had the Taedong and Pothong Rivers on the three sides.

The walls were 16 kilometres in circumference and the total length of the walls plus sectoral walls was 23 kilometres. The sectoral walls in the walled city consisted of the inner, central, outer and northern walls. In the central wall there were central government offices. In the walls there were gates, secret gates and watergates. Taedong, Chilsong, Pothong, Jongum and Hyonmu gates still remain intact, preserving their old looks. In front of the wall gates leading to the outside, breast walls with defence facilities were built up.

There were 210 508 households in the capital in Koguryo's heyday.

Tombs with Murals of Koguryo

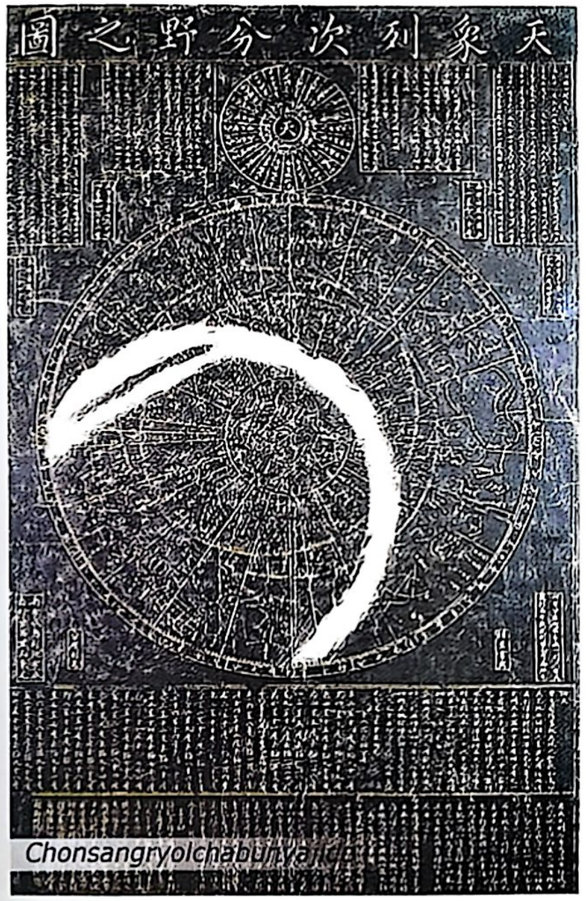
In the areas of Pyongyang, Nampho and Anak County of South Hwanghae Province there are many tombs of royal families and feudal nobles built in the period of Koguryo.

Not a few tombs of them have mural paintings.

Typical tombs with murals are King Kogugwon's Mausoleum (Anak Tomb No. 3), Kangso Three Tombs and the tomb in Tokhung-ri.

On the ceilings of the tombs there are the paintings of the sun, moon, stars, lotus flowers and the like and on the walls are drawn various patterns, pictures showing customs and manners and painting of fantastic creatures guarding four directions.

The tomb murals were painted before the 7th century and they still retain vividness, drawing attention of the world's art circles.



Chonsangryolchabunyajido

Astronomical Chart of Koguryo—*Chonsangryolchabunyajido*

The astronomical chart carved on stone of Koguryo was in the Walled City of Pyongyang originally, but thrown into a river by foreign invaders. Its rubbed copy was later discovered and, on the basis of this, *Chonsangryolchabunyajido* was made in 1395.

On the chart are marked 1 467 stars centring on the North Pole, forming 282 constellations, and the positions of spring and autumn equinoxes and the coordinates of each of 28 fundamental stars.

Tombstone of King Kwanggaetho

Tombstone of King Kwanggaetho

It was erected in 414 at the Tomb of King Kwanggaetho, the 24th king of Koguryo, in praise of his exploits. It stands in Jian of Jilin Province, China. It is 6.34 metres high and on its four faces are engraved with about 1 800 characters, which serve as important materials for the study of the period of the Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla. It is one of the biggest among the world's old tombstones that remain up to now.

Chonghae Earthen Wall

It is located in Haho-ri, Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province.

Haho-ri is where Namhae *bu* of Namgyong, the secondary capital of Palhae, was located.

The earthen wall was built on a vast expanse of plain in the left bank of the Pukchong River near the East Sea of Korea. Not far away from it are the Kosan Fort, group of tombs in Phyong-ri, Jolgol remains and a tombstone inscribed with "Palhaegodoji".

Seven-bladed Sword

The Seven-bladed Sword of Paekje was worked in the early 5th century. The sword is gold-inlaid with the inscriptions that the Paekje King gave the specially made sword to the king of a small country of Japan.

Period of Koryo

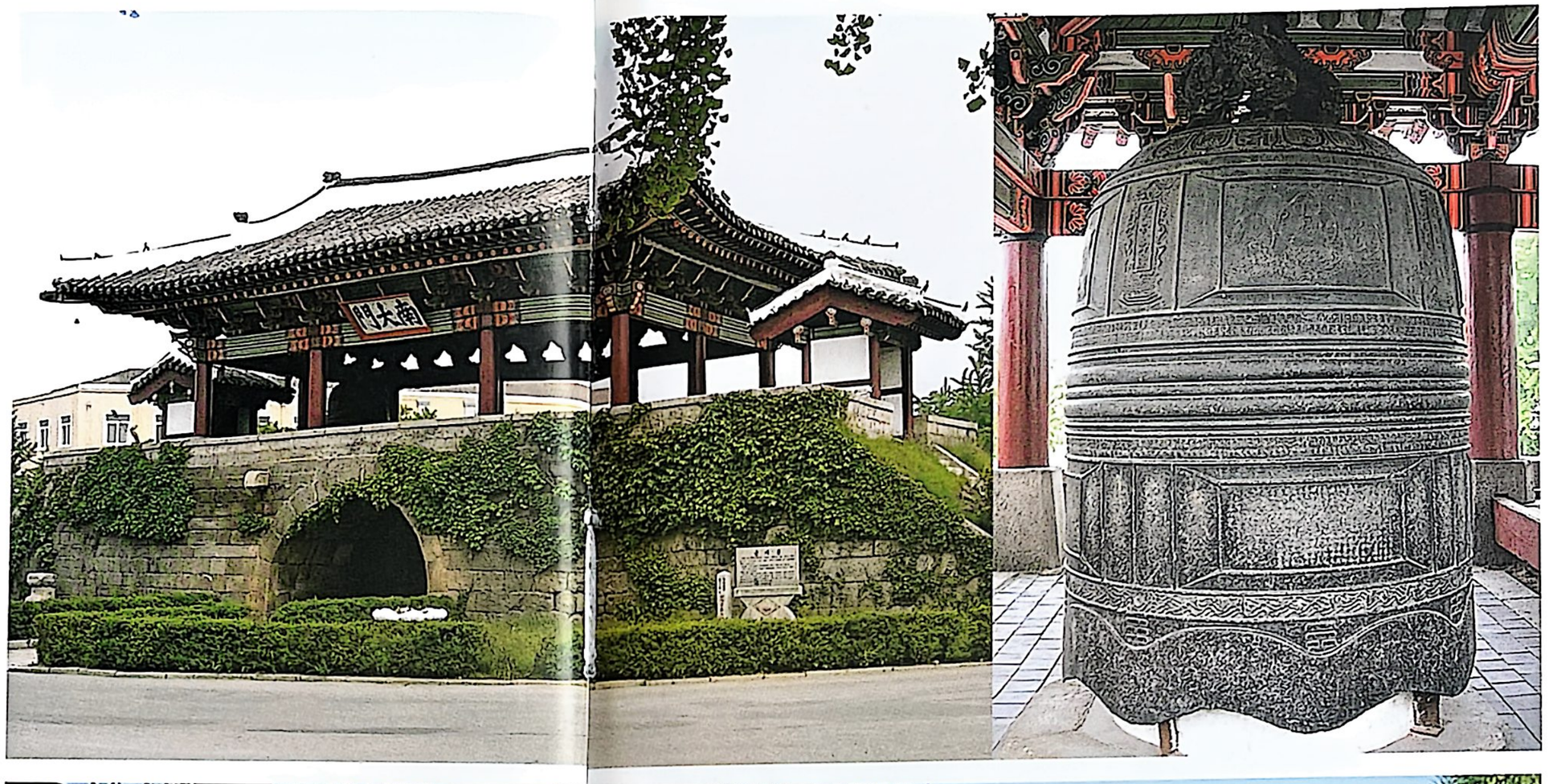
Nam Gate and Bell of Yonbok Temple in Kaesong

It is the Nam Gate of the Walled City of Kaesong built between 1391 and 1393. The gate consists of the rectangular-plane platform built of granite and the roof above it.

The body, roof and eaves of the gate showcase the unique architecture of the Korean nation. The colours of roof structures are graceful and dignified.

In the gate there is the bell of Yonbok Temple, one of three famous bells in Korea. The bell was cast in 1346 and hung at the temple in Kaesong. It was moved to the Nam Gate in 1563 after the temple was damaged by fire.

The mouth of the bell is 1.9 metres in diameter, 3.12 metres high, 23 centimetres thick, and about 14 tons in weight.



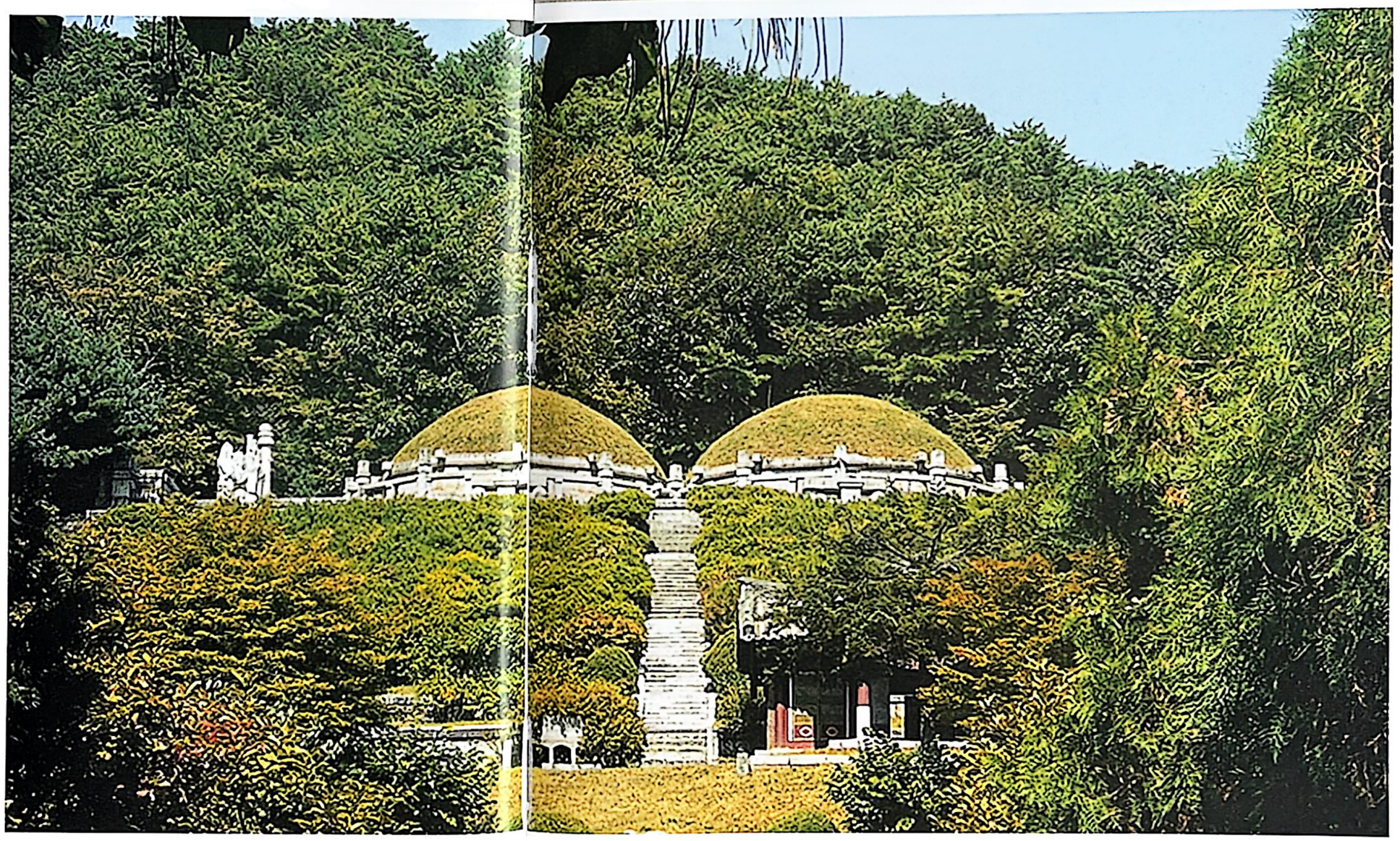
Mausoleum of King Kongmin

The mausoleum of the 31st King of Koryo is situated in Haeson-ri, Kaesong. Consisting of the tombs of the king's couple, it was built between 1365 and 1372 under the supervision of the king himself.

The tomb area is divided into the three tiers of east-west long rectangular platforms and a wide sloping area under them.

The murals in the chamber and on the east, west and north walls represent 12 earth gods and those on the ceiling portray the Great Bear at the north, and a pair of stars and the sun at the south.

Around the tomb there are stone sculptures of sheep, tigers and civil and military officials and stone lanterns, which are lifelike and majestic.



Pohyon Temple and Pagodas

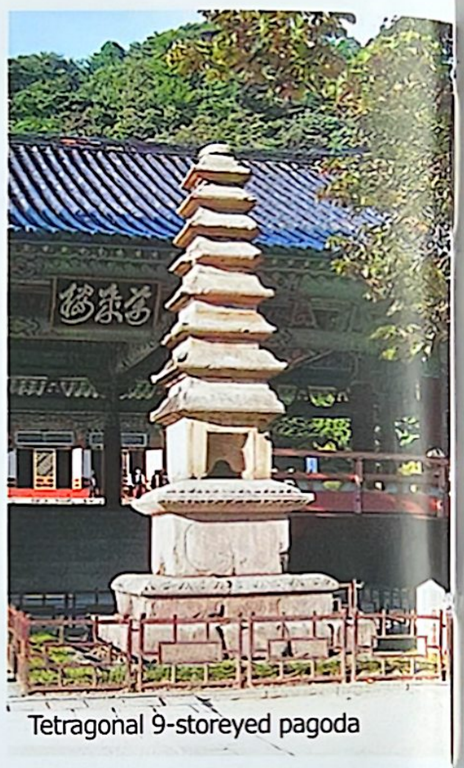
The temple in Mt. Myohyang is one of structures representing the architecture of medieval Korea. It was built in 1042 and later reconstructed and repaired on several occasions.

Originally, the temple had 24 buildings and pagodas, but now there remain some 10 buildings including the Taeung Hall and pagodas.

The octagonal 13-storeyed pagoda at the courtyard of the Taeung Hall was elaborately built of well-trimmed granite. The 10.03-metre-tall pagoda is one of tall and excellent pagodas among the remains in Korea.

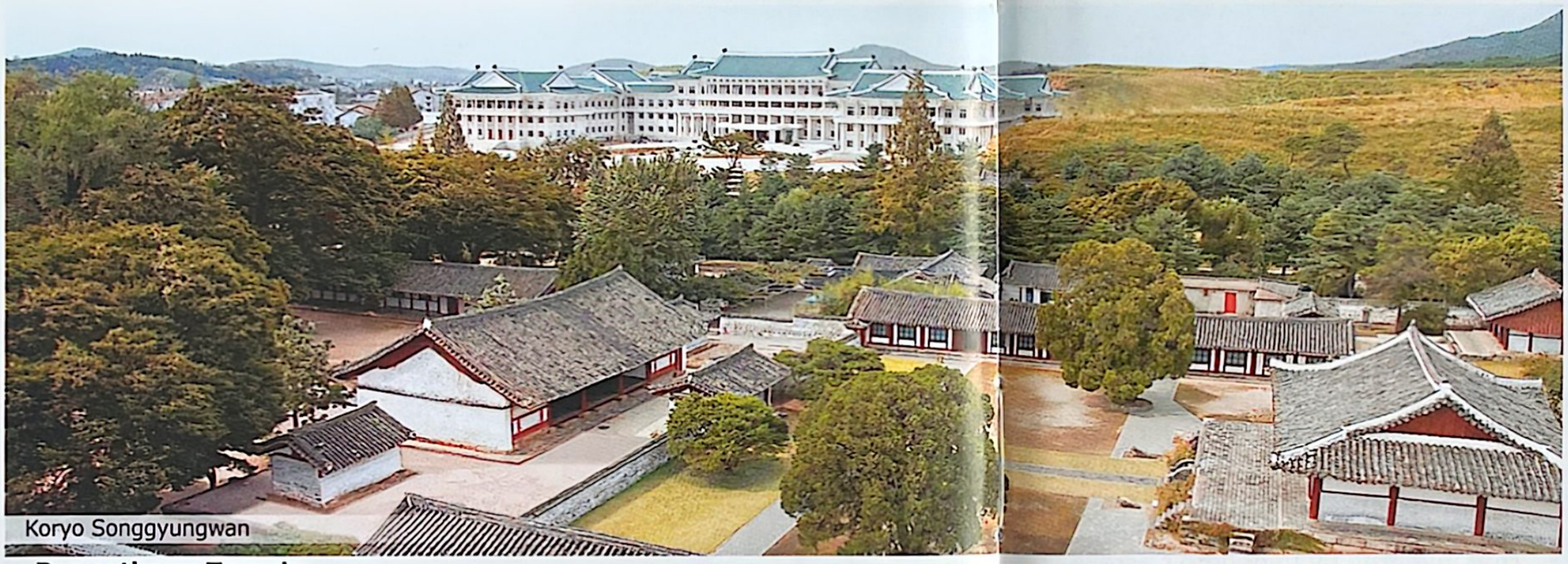
There are wind-bells hanging from the eaves of the roof of each storey and they numbered 104 originally.

The tetragonal 9-storeyed pagoda in front of Manse Pavilion of the Pohyon Temple was erected in 1044. The pagoda, 6 metres high, was built of elaborately trimmed granite. At the south side of the body stone of the first story there is a square recess in which there was a Buddha. Wind-bells hang from the eaves of the pagoda.



Tetragonal 9-storeyed pagoda

Taeung Hall and octagonal 13-storeyed pagoda



Koryo Songgyungwan

Koryo Songgyungwan

Koryo Songgyungwan, situated in Kaesong, was the highest educational institute in the period of Koryo. It taught six subjects—national language, *Taehak* (part of the Buddhist Scriptures), literature, ethics, poetics and mathematics. There were many buildings including 12 main buildings and the total area of their lot is 20 000 square metres.

The 200-bay Songgyungwan was surrounded by stone walls.

Ryongthong Temple

The Ryongthong Temple is a famous temple in Kaesong, known as the holy place of the Chonthae religion of Korea. Its founder was Rev. Taegak Uichon (1055–1101).

At the Ryongthong Valley there are the tomb chamber, tombstone and stupa of Uichon, and a building for holding memorial services.

The temple was built in the early 10th century. Keeping relations with the family of King Wang Kon, it prospered for 700 years under the protection of successive kings of Koryo and ruined in the 16th century.

Chairman Kim Jong Il took measures to restore it. In October Juche 94 (2005), the Ryongthong Temple showed its old magnificent figure. Its total lot area is 60 000 square metres and total floor space is 4 000 square metres, where 26 buildings have been reconstructed.

Ryongthong Temple

Metal Type

In the period of the late 11th–early 12th century the metal type was invented and used, and paper of high-quality and Indian ink were produced for printing.

The book printed with the first metal type was *Kogumsangjongryemun*, which is thought to have been printed in 1234.

Metal type

"80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures"

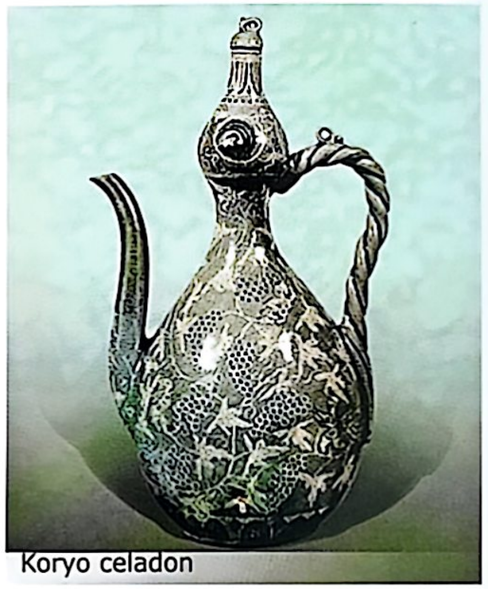
It is the Buddhist scriptures printed with 80 000 wooden blocks. It was completed in 1251 and amounts to 6 793 volumes of 1 537 items.

It is now preserved in Mt. Myohyang as a world cultural heritage.

Koryo Ceramics

Koryo ceramics began to be produced in the 10th century and attained the highest stage of their development in the period of the 11th–12th century. They were glazed in blue, black, white or red colours. The jaded green celadon was the most beautiful and renowned; it was the symbol of the Koryo ceramics.

The Koryo celadon has been widely known as the finest of their kinds in the world.


Koryo celadon

The 37th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held Phnom Penh, Cambodia in June 23, Juche 102 (2013), decided to list a number of historical remains in Kaesong. They include the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon, Mausoleum of King Kongmin, Kaesong Nam Gate, Kaesong Walls, Sungyang Confucian Shrine, Phyochung Monument, Sonjuk Bridge, Koryo Songgyungwan, Manwoltae, Kaesong Chomsongdae Observatory, Seven Tombs Cluster and Myongrung Tomb Cluster.

Period of Feudal Joson Dynasty

Rain Gauge

Koreans invented and used iron rain gauges for the first time in the world in 1441. It is a cylindrical cast-iron vessel 40 centimetres high and 16 centimetres in diameter.

Rain gauge

It is nearly 200 years older than that invented by Venedeto Castella in Italy (1639).

Hunminjongum (Korean Alphabet)

Sejong (1419–1450), the fourth king of feudal Joson dynasty, gave an instruction to scholars to make a Korean alphabet.

The Korean alphabet was created in January 1444 and had 17 consonants and 11 vowels at the time. It was named *Hunminjongum*, or Correct Letters for Teaching People, and a guide book on it was printed.

The Korean alphabet is easy to learn and write and renders it possible to write correctly spoken languages of other countries, so it is appreciated as an excellent alphabet in the world.

Turtle-shaped ship (model)

Turtle-shaped Ship

The turtle-shaped ship is the world's first ironclad ship. It was 35 metres long and had 70 gun holes. It had 10 oars on each side; the deck was clad with iron plates, bristled with sharp spikes so that the enemy could not climb on it. Besides, it had two sails. The smoke and strong smell given out from the dragon-shaped head made it possible to avoid enemy attack or to cover itself.

In the period of the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) when Japan invaded Korea the ships destroyed hundreds of enemy boats in the battles on the seas off Sachon and Roryang and other sea battles, thereby making a big contribution to victory in the war.

Peasant War in Phyongan Province

It is a peasant rebellion against the feudal rulers, led by Hong Kyong Rae who hailed from Phyongan Province. He enlisted and trained the peasant forces of 1 000 strong. He organized the command with local gentry and merchants in Phyongan Province, while forming organizations in major local towns.

In December 1811, the peasant army attacked Kasan County and then advanced to Pakchon, Kwaksan and Jongju, exploiting the results of battle. The peasant forces grew into a large unit with thousands of soldiers and occupied most of the area north of the Chongchon River.

In order to advance to Anju, Pyongyang and then to Seoul, they marched to Songnim-dong opposite Anju and engaged in the first battle with the government forces in the end of December. They achieved some results in the battle, but had to retreat to the Jongju Fort, attacked by the reinforced government troops. With it as the base of operations the peasant forces fought a fierce battle, but Hong Kyong Rae fell in the final battle on April 19, 1812. The peasant war failed, but dealt a heavy blow to the feudal system.

Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty

It is the world's most voluminous "government" diary which recorded the historical facts of 500 years of the feudal Joson dynasty from July 1392 to August 1910. It covers the successive kings from the 1st to the 27th king, consisting of 1 763 volumes.

It chronicles almost all things from political events to the happenings taken place among people and from social problems to natural phonomena.

The chronicles had been preserved in a library in Seoul after liberation. During the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953) Kim Il Sung organized an operation to save them from the flames of the war, and took measures to translate them.

Three Major Classics of Korean Traditional Medicine

In the period of the feudal Joson dynasty scholars of medicine wrote medical books by synthesizing and compiling the Korean traditional medicine in the Middle Ages on the basis of the results and experiences in the earlier periods. They are *Hyangyakjipsongbang*, *Uibangryuchwi* and *Tonguibogam*.

Hyangyakjipsongbang is a clinical encyclopedia of traditional medicine consisting of 85 volumes. It was compiled in 1433 by bringing together the results in Korean traditional medicine attained up to the early 15th century and the experiences in curing diseases with the help of indigenous medicines. It is divided into two parts—the part of clinical treatment (Vol.1–Vol.75) and the part of Korean traditional pharmacy (Vol.76–Vol.85).

The clinical treatment part classifies diseases of surgery, obstetrics, paediatrics and others into 54 divisions and 959 kinds, explaining the causes and symptoms of every disease. Prescriptions to 10 706 cases, acupuncture and moxibustion of 1 479 kinds and data of medicinal herbs of 693 species are given.

Uibangryuchwi is a series of Korean traditional medicine which systematized and synthesized the Eastern medicines by collecting medical books from Korea and other Eastern countries. Its compilation began in 1445 and completed into 266 volumes in 1477.

Tonguibogam is a medical classics edited into 25 volumes by Ho Jun (1545–1615), a famous scholar of medicine, in the period of 1596–1610. Here he synthesized the results in the development of the Korean traditional medicines in a new system by referring to domestic and foreign medical books and based on his long clinical practices. Geneses and cure of diseases and folk remedies are plainly described in this book. In addition medication, acupuncture, moxibustion and other recipes are introduced.

Hyangyakjipsongbang

Uibangryuchwi

Ho Jun and his *Tonguibogam*

The Tale of Chun Hyang

The Tale of Chun Hyang was written in the latter half of the 18th century. It reveals the inequality of the caste system and corruption of feudal society through love relations between Chun Hyang and Mong Ryong.

The novel, while dealing with love relations between a young man and a woman who are different in social status from each other, reflects vividly the anti-feudal sentiments of the contemporary people and represents realities through objective and realistic portrayal, free from unscientific fantasy often seen in the novels of the Middle Ages, thereby making a huge contribution to the development of novel.

The Tale of Chun Hyang, *The Tale of Sim Chong* and *The Tale of Hung Bu* are three representative classic novels of Korea.

Arirang

Arirang, full of emotion, is a typical folk song of Korea.

The song has widely been sung by Koreans, enjoying their love through ages.

It has some varieties by localities, each of which reflects the aspect of the times and the sentiments of local people, based on the melodic tune of its own local folk song.

Arirang earnestly expresses the feelings of parting with one's dear fiancé, giving audience a sorrowful impression and emotion as if appealing something and longing for someone.

The song has the features of soft and gentle Korean folk songs and expresses the Koreans' sentiments and deep national emotions.

Arirang is widely known to the world as an excellent piece of music.

Modern Times

The modern history of Korea started with the struggle to beat back the invasions of the United States and other capitalist powers in the 1860s and put an end to the feudal ruling system.

The Korean people burnt down the US aggressive ship *General Sherman* which intruded into Pyongyang along the Taedong River in 1866. This was a prelude to the modern history of Korea. In the wake of this incident, the Korean people repelled the invasions of French and British fleets and Japanese warships one after another.

However, in 1876 the feudal rulers infected with flunkyist subservience concluded the Kanghwado Treaty, an unequal treaty with Japan, with the result that Korea was reduced to a colony of Japan.

Vigorous struggles were launched against the Japanese aggressors and the feudal rulers who yielded to them.

Typical is a mutiny in 1882.

In 1884 the Enlightenment Group led by Kim Ok Kyun carried out a coup in the year Kapsin, the first bourgeois reformist movement in Korea, which was followed by the Kabo Reform in 1894.

Entering the period of the late 19th century–early 20th century, fierce anti-aggression and anti-feudal struggles, including the Kabo Peasant War in 1894, were waged in different parts of Korea under the slogans of "Defending the country and providing welfare for the people" and "Driving out Westerners and the Japanese", dealing telling blows to the Japanese imperialists and the feudal rulers.

Through the Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905) the Japanese imperialists drove the forces of Qing China and Russia out of Korea and then stepped up the invasion of Korea.

They fabricated the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" in November 1905 and the "Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty" in 1910 and thus occupied Korea completely.

The Korean people conducted ceaseless struggles against the Japanese imperialists. The nationwide anti-Japanese popular uprising on March 1, Juche 8 (1919) delivered a heavy blow to the Japanese invaders.

Entering the 1920s when the working class took an active part in the struggle and their revolutionary idea was spread widely, the national liberation movement gained further momentum.

The Korean Communist Party was founded in Juche 14 (1925), but it was dissolved in three years due to the harsh oppression by the Japanese imperialists and the disputes of factional elements.

In the mid-1920s the Korean people eagerly longed for the appearance of an outstanding leader who would save the fate of their nation at stake and lead the Korean revolution to victory.

Out of the urgent demand of the times, Kim Il Sung embarked on the road of revolutionary struggle to realize the desire of the Korean nation, which signalled the start of a new history of modern Korea.

Imo Mutiny

In June 1882 (the year Imo by the lunar calendar), the Korean soldiers who had been discontent with the invasion of the Japanese imperialists and the misgovernment of the feudal rulers mutinied in protest against a pay delay.

After they attacked the arsenal and equipped themselves with arms, the mutineers killed their Japanese military drill instructors, laid siege to the Japanese legation and overthrew Empress Myongsong and her party who held sway over the state power.

However, the soldiers of Qing China who was stealthily dispatched at the request of Empress Myongsong, in conspiracy with Japanese troops, mercilessly suppressed and killed the mutineers. The mutinous soldiers fought bravely against heavy odds, but in the end were crushed.

The mutiny gave a strong impetus to the anti-aggression and anti-feudal struggle of the Korean people.

Coup in the Year Kapsin

With the development of capitalist relations in the later years of the 19th century, an idea of enlightenment grew in Korea. The idea of enlightenment was furthered by Kim Ok Kyun in the idea of bourgeois reform. The enlightenment group instituted new state administration bodies and schools, and inaugurated the newspaper *Hansong Sunbo* to introduce modern culture and institutions. It took measures to train a modern army while dispatching inspection groups and students to foreign countries.

The enlightenment group led by Kim Ok Kyun staged a coup d'etat on October 17, 1884 (December 4 by the solar calendar). It ousted the conservative government officials and established a new government. However, the enlightenment government was in power for only three days owing to the intervention of the army of Qing China in collusion with the remnants of the conservative group. Though unsuccessful, the coup d'etat, the first attempt at a bourgeois reform in Korea, was of historic significance in that it provided a great stimulus to the people's efforts for modern reform.

Kabo Peasant War

The Kabo Peasant War started with a peasant uprising in 1894 (the year Kabo by the lunar calendar). Some 8 000 peasants led by Jon Pong Jun routed a government armed force and won many battles under the banner of "Driving out Westerners and the Japanese" and "Defending the country and providing welfare for the people", and finally seized Jonju, the seat of Jolla Province, in the southern part of the Korean peninsula.

The peasant army adopted a reform programme which set forth measures for punishing vicious government officials and pro-Japanese elements, burning up slave-owning documents, equal distribution of land and other demands against aggression and feudal abuses.

The Japanese imperialists who had been watching for a chance to invade Korea made an armed intervention on the pretext of protecting the Japanese residents in Korea, with the result that the Kabo Peasant War ended in failure. But it delivered a heavy blow at the Japanese imperialists' moves for aggression and propelled the modernization of Korea.

"Ulsa Five-Point Treaty"

In November 1905 Ito Hirobumi came to Korea as a special envoy of the Japanese king and forced Emperor Kojong of Korea to accept a "draft treaty", the gist of which was the transfer of Korea's diplomatic rights to Japan. When Kojong rejected his demand, Ito had a unit of heavily armed Japanese troops besiege the imperial palace. Ito forced the cabinet ministers to sign the "treaty" and finally concluded it illegally.

The "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" stripped the Korean government of its diplomatic rights and placed Korea under the Japanese Residency-General's control.

The "treaty" is an illegal and invalid document even without the Emperor's approval and signature and the affixing of the seal of state.

On the basis of the "treaty" the Japanese imperialists concocted the "Jongmi Seven-Point Treaty" which stripped Korea of its administrative power in July 1907 and the "Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty" in August 1910, with result that Korea was reduced to a colony of Japan.

March First Popular Uprising

The March First Popular Uprising was a nationwide anti-Japanese uprising for independence, an outburst of the pent-up indignation and fury of the Korean people who had been humiliated by the Japanese military rule.

The uprising that started with an anti-Japanese mass demonstration in Pyongyang on March 1, Juche 8 (1919), swept across Korea. The demonstrators marched out onto the street shouting "Japanese and Japanese troops, go home!" "Long live the independence of Korea!" and "Korea belongs to Koreans. Long live freedom and equality!" and destroying the Japanese government offices.

The bare-handed demonstrators bravely fought against the Japanese army and police.

The uprising lasted to the end of that year, attended by more than two million people from all walks of life. In the wake of the uprising over 3 200 demonstrations and riots took place across the country.

The overseas Koreans also turned out in the struggle against the Japanese.

The Japanese imperialists cracked down on the uprising in a brutal manner and killed 100 000 Koreans.

The uprising left a lesson of blood that it is impossible to emerge victorious in the national liberation struggle apart from the correct guidance of an outstanding leader.

Japanese imperialist aggressive forces make inroad into Korea

Japanese troops crack down on March First Popular Uprising by force of arms

Japanese troops put Korea under military occupation and massacre savagely the innocent people

Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

The Economy

Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism

Kim Il Sung, Premier, State ... Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Great Leader Kim Il Sung

Entering the modern times, Korea with 5 000-year-long history and brilliant culture gradually weakened in national power owing to the policy of flunkeyism and dependence on outside forces of the feudal Joson dynasty and was reduced to a theatre of competition for the powers. Finally it was placed under the Japanese military occupation since 1905.

It was President Kim Il Sung who saved the Korean people from the miserable fate of a ruined nation.

He was born in Mangyongdae, Pyongyang on April 15, Juche 1 (1912) and embarked on the road of revolutionary struggle for Korea's liberation in his teens. In the course of groping for the road of the Korean revolution, he authored the Juche idea and the Songun idea (army-first idea) and commanded the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle for two decades under its banner, finally achieving the historic cause of Korea's liberation on August 15, Juche 34 (1945).

After his triumphal return to the liberated homeland, he founded the Workers' Party of Korea without delay, carried out the democratic reforms, including the land reform, nationalization of key industrial establishments and enforcement of the Law on Sex Equality, and founded a regular armed force. Based on these achievements, he founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the first people's democratic state in the East, on September 9, Juche 37 (1948).

He creditably safeguarded the sovereignty and dignity of the DPRK in the Korean war (1950–1953) provoked by the US in attempt to stifle the two-year-old Republic in its cradle. He carried out the postwar rehabilitation and the socialist revolution in a short period and led the socialist construction of several stages to victory, thus turning the DPRK into a socialist power, independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in defence.

He regarded "The people are my god" as his lifetime motto and his benevolent politics got a people-centred socialist system deeply rooted in the DPRK.

He advanced the fundamental principles and ways to Korea's reunification, including the Three Principles of National Reunification, the Ten-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country and the Plan for the Founding of the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo, and devoted his all for the national reunification cause until the last minutes of his life.

He defined independence, peace and friendship as the basic ideal of the DPRK's foreign policy and enhanced its international prestige through his energetic external activities. Working as the head of state and the veteran of world politics for nearly half a century, he made immortal contributions to developing the socialist and non-aligned movements.

It is not fortuitous that US ex-President Jimmy Carter said that President Kim Il Sung was greater than the three American Presidents who had represented the nation-building and destiny of the United States–George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln–put together.

The DPRK conferred the title of Generalissimo on him on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of his birth. Though he passed away on July 8, Juche 83 (1994), he is always alive in the hearts of the Korean people and the world progressives as the father of socialist Korea, pioneer of the human cause of independence, eternal President of the DPRK and the Sun of Juche.

Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the WPK, ... and eternal Chairman of the DPRK National ...

Great Leader Kim Jong Il

General Kim Jong Il was born on Mt. Paektu on February 16, Juche 31 (1942).

He spent his childhood hearing the gun report of the anti-Japanese war. He devoted his whole life to faithfully supporting the idea and cause of President Kim Il Sung.

He started his Songun-based leadership with the inspection of the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su 105th Guards Tank Division on August 25, Juche 49 (1960). Since his work at the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on June 19, Juche 53 (1964), he led the WPK, the army and the people for half a century, performing immortal exploits for the times and the history.

He formulated Kim Il Sung's revolutionary idea as Kimilsungism and added lustre to it as the eternal guiding ideology of the WPK and the DPRK. He proclaimed it as the ultimate programme of the WPK to model the whole society on Kimilsungism and wisely organized and led the work for its realization. He closely rallied broad sections of the masses around the WPK by administering the benevolent and all-embracing politics, and remarkably strengthened the driving force of the socialist cause by realizing consistency of the army and people in ideas and fighting spirit. The DPRK has exalted its dignity as a country of single-hearted unity in which its people and service personnel are rallied around the WPK and their leader to form a socio-political organism and as a politico-ideological power that remains unflinching in the face of any political upheavals around the world.

After the demise of President Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il set an example in realizing the cause of immortalizing the leader and made sure that the President's lifetime instructions were carried forward as the guidelines in all fields of revolution and construction so as to make his life and exploits shine for ages.

In the closing years of the last century when the DPRK was bearing the brunt of the anti-socialist offensive of the US-led allied imperialist forces he formulated Songun politics as the main political mode of socialism and administered it in an all-round way. He developed the Korean People's Army into an invincible army, built up the self-reliant and modern defence industry in every way and realized the arming of all the people and the fortification of the whole country on a high level.

Decade after decade, he kindled the torch of a new revolutionary upsurge and led the drive to flare up the flames of the industrial revolution in the new century, with the result that the DPRK could demonstrate its might as a manufacturer and launcher of artificial satellites and a science and technology power that has full command of CNC technology.

He performed great exploits in the efforts for achieving Korea's reunification and promoting the cause of global independence.

True to the President's instructions for Korea's reunification, he established the three charters for national reunification and saw to it that the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration were adopted between the north and south of Korea to usher in a new era of independent reunification movement advancing under the ideal of By Our Nation Itself.

He expanded and developed the relations of friendship and cooperation with other countries aspiring after independence with his seasoned diplomatic strategy and energetic foreign activities and thus made great contributions to safeguarding the peace and stability of Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

He continued his forced march for field guidance day and night with an indomitable will and superhuman energy, regarding "The people are my God" as his motto. He passed away in a running train on December 17, Juche 100 (2011).

After his demise, the DPRK conferred the title of Generalissimo of the DPRK on him and held him in high esteem as the eternal General Secretary of the WPK and the eternal Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission.

Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, First Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un

The cause of Juche and Songun pioneered by President Kim Il Sung and developed by General Kim Jong Il is being carried forward by Kim Jong Un, supreme leader of the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un is possessed of an infinite loyalty to the cause of Juche and Songun and an outstanding leadership ability, matchless courage and pluck and ennobling popular personalities.

He ensured that the beaming image of Kim Jong Il is cherished in the minds of the people and his sacred revolutionary history goes on by realizing the cause of immortalizing the leader with lofty loyalty and moral obligation. As he is wisely leading the Korean people, indicating the road ahead of developing the WPK, the KPA and the DPRK, Kim Jong Il's desires and instructions are being translated into realities.

Thanks to his energetic ideological and theoretical activities and wise leadership, the revolutionary ideas of Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were formulated as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and the Korean people, full of confidence, are advancing along the road of independence, Songun and socialism.

He, who is perfectly possessed of the personality and qualification of a modern statesman, has made devoted and painstaking efforts, accompanying Kim Jong Il on the road of Songun leadership to strengthen the Party, state and army. After assuming the Supreme Commandership of the KPA he has made ceaseless inspection tours to army units, giving strong impetus to the drive to build up the military power and advance the Songun cause along the road of victory.

He is further cementing the harmonious whole of the service personnel and people by embodying the benevolent politics and an all-embracing politics. Based on his lofty outlooks on comrades and comrades-in-arms, the traditional single-hearted unity in the DPRK is being consolidated into the most true and invincible unity by which the leader and the service personnel and people, arm in arm and shoulder to shoulder, share weal and woe, having the same intention and feelings and the national power of Songun Korea has been displayed to the full.

Under his leadership the flames of the industrial revolution in the new century flared up more fiercely to work the miracles of breaking through the cutting edge one after another and register eye-opening achievements in the sectors of science, education, and art and literature, opening a new history of building a knowledge-based economic giant and a civilized socialist nation.

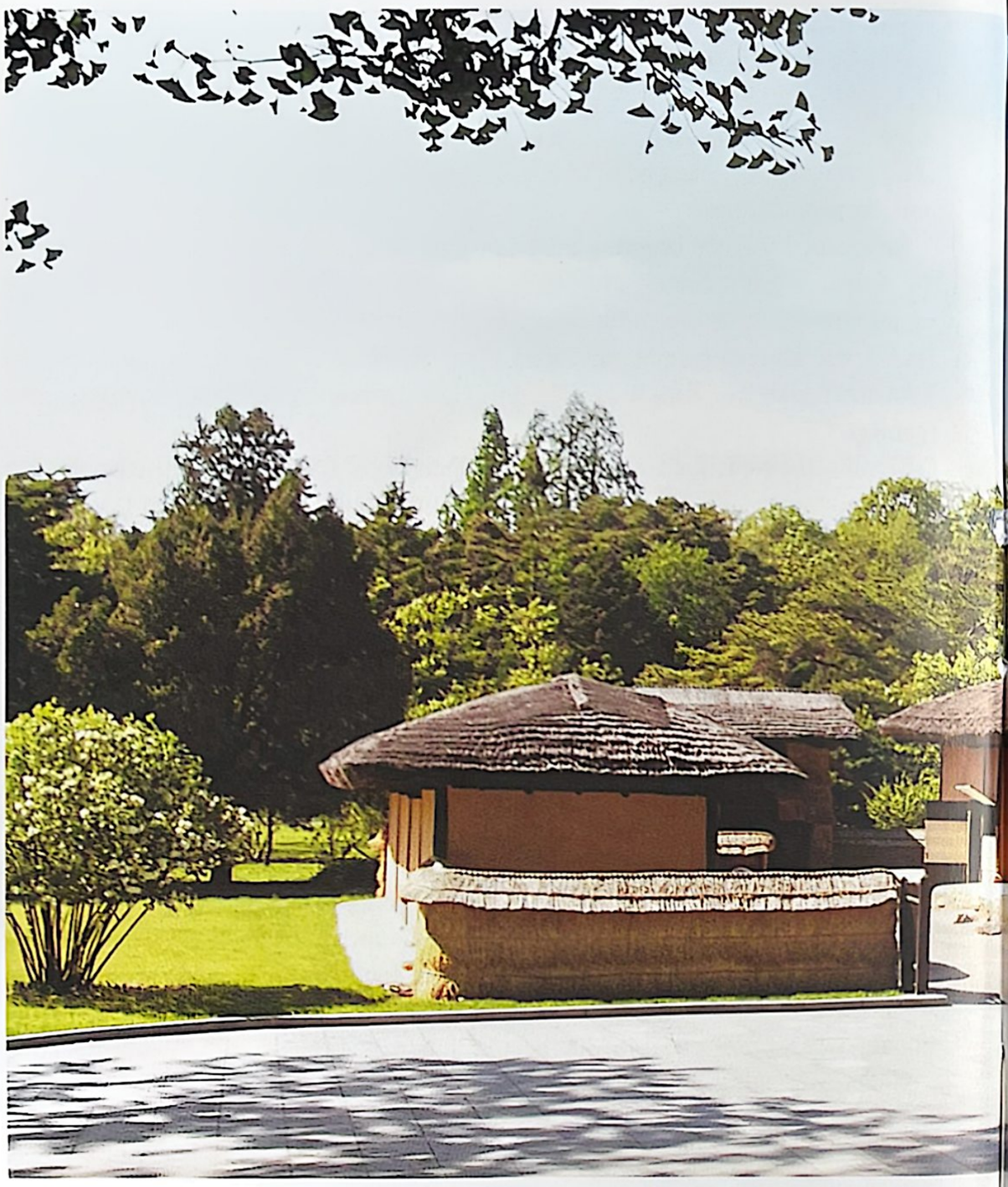
While consolidating its status as the politico-ideological power and the military power, the DPRK carried out the historic task of laying solid foundations of an economic giant. This resulted in opening a bright vista for the building of a thriving socialist country in an all-round way.

Thanks to his uncommon strategy and steadfast will for reunification, the movement for Korea's reunification gathers momentum.

For his great contributions to ensuring peace and stability of the world and the human cause of independence by frustrating the imperialists' high-handed practices and war schemes under the unfurled banner of Songun, he enjoys admiration of the international community as the great champion of justice.

Kim Jong Un, Supreme Commander of the KPA, was elected First Secretary of the WPK and First Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission. He was conferred the title of Marshal of the DPRK in accordance with the unanimous desire and will of all the Korean people.

President Kim Il Sung's Birthplace at Mangyongdae



President Kim Il Sung, father of socialist Korea, was born in the beautiful Mangyongdae of Pyongyang on April 15, Juche 1 (1912).

The low straw-thatched house, simple farm implements, hand loom, straw mat, misshapen jar and other relics remind one of an impoverished rural house that could be found everywhere in Korea when it was under the Japanese military occupation.

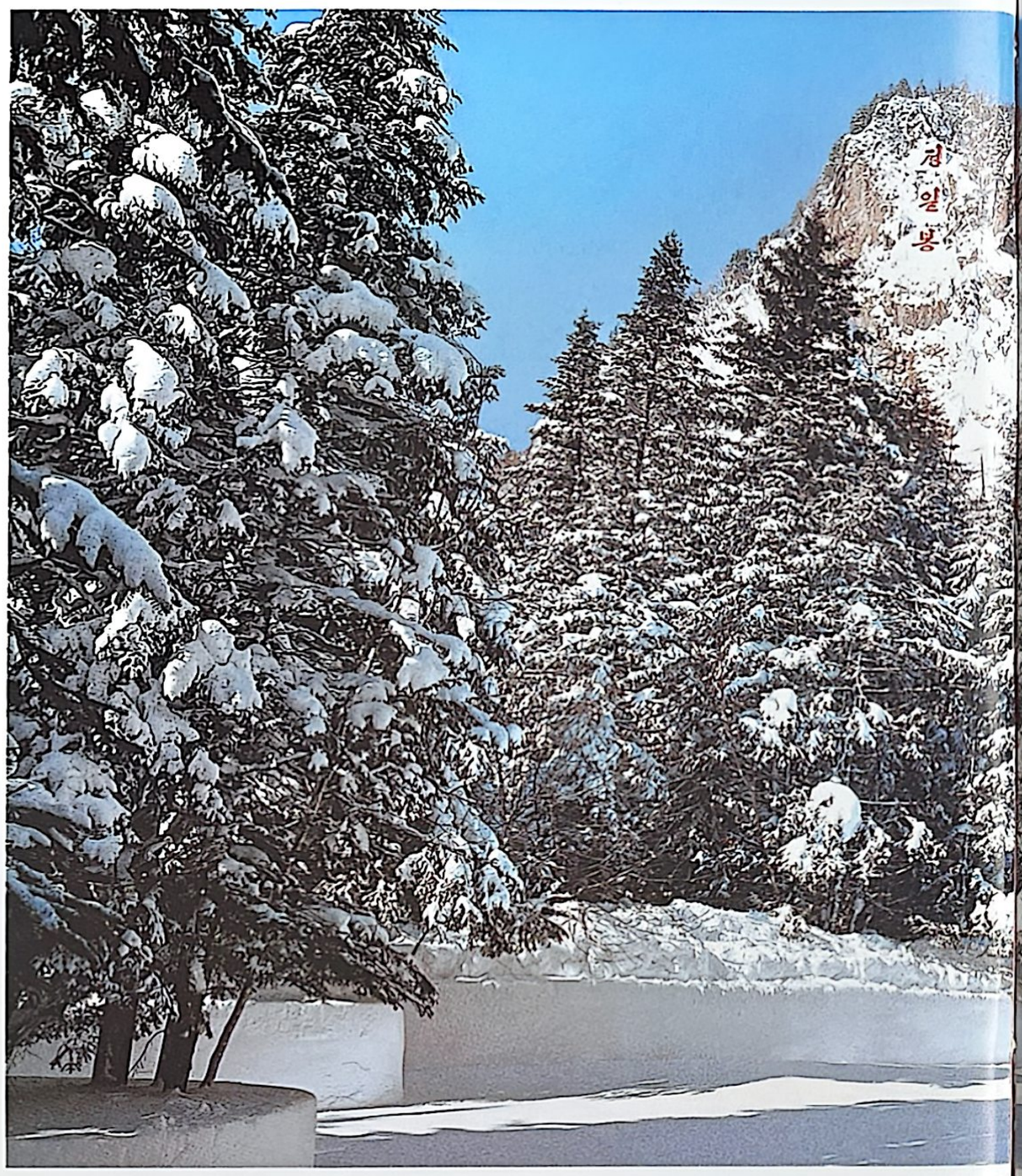
His grand parents, parents, uncle and other family members lived in this house generation after generation.

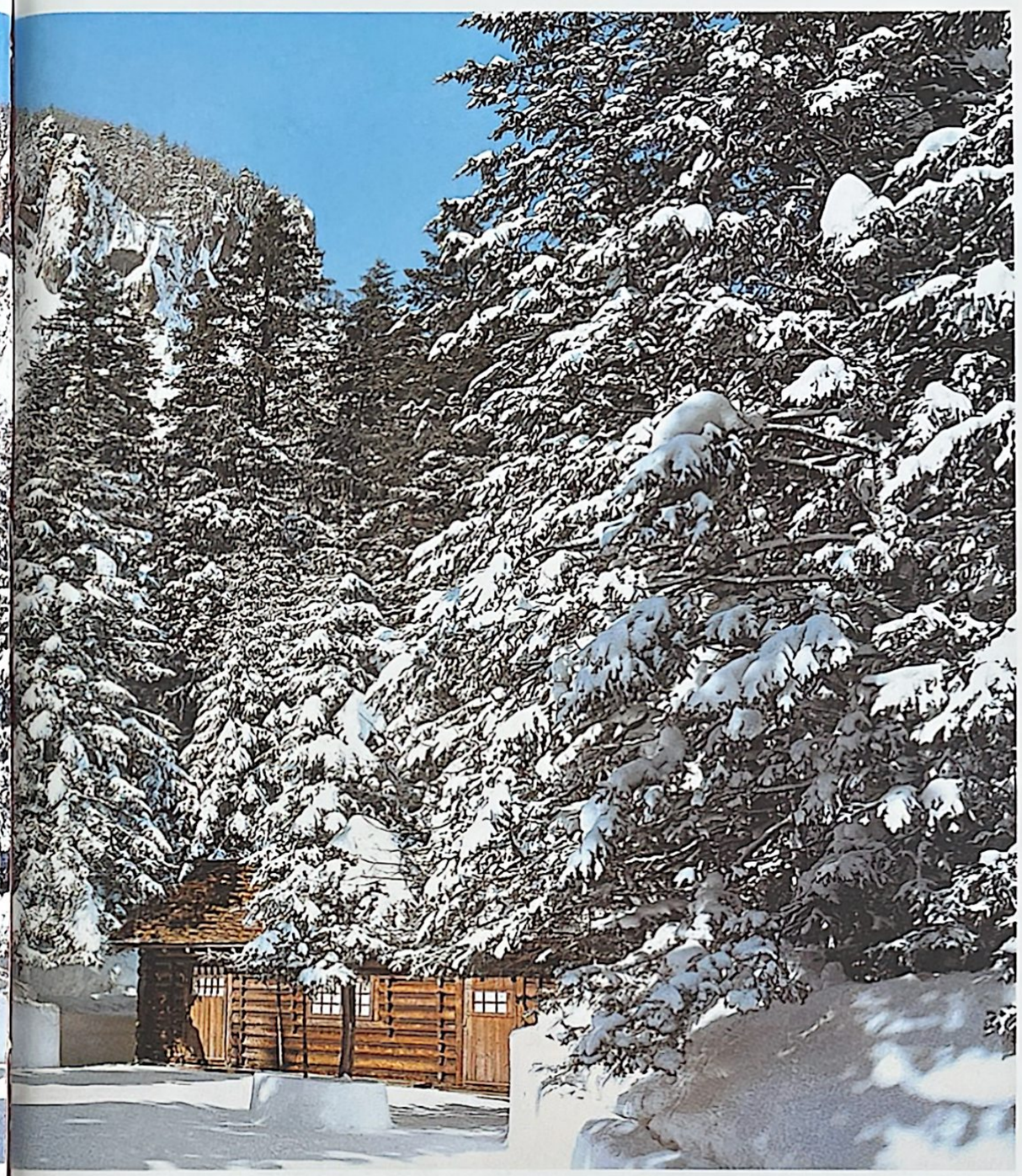
Such historical relics that showcase his childhood as "Learning Site", "Wrestling Site", "Swinging Site" and "Warship Rock" are preserved in the vicinity of his native home on Mangyong Hill, which commands an extensive view.

Kim Il Sung left Mangyongdae in his teens in Juche 14 (1925) with a determination not to return home before winning back his ruined country, and made a triumphal return home 20 years after achieving the cause of Korea's liberation.

Near his native home stands the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Museum, which exhibits the historic relics and materials showing his revolutionary activities and the heroic careers of his family members. Mangyongdae is regarded as the place dear to the hearts of the Korean people.

Kim Jong Il's Birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp





An ordinary log cabin, Kim Jong Il's birthplace, stands on the shore of Sobaek Stream in the Paektusan secret camp in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province.

Located in primitive forests, it keeps a patched blanket, a pair of binoculars, a sectional Korean map, a desk and a wooden pistol, which give a glimpse of unusual career of Kim Jong Il who was born as the guerillas' son and grew up in battlefields.

President Kim Il Sung declared the anti-Japanese war at the foot of Mt. Paektu and commanded 15-year-long hard-fought struggles with the Japanese imperialists in the areas centring on Mt. Paektu and, in the course of this, created the revolutionary traditions of Mt. Paektu, the eternal foundation of socialist Korea.

The idea, character, hobby and habit of General Kim Jong Il represented the spirit of Mt. Paektu. His mettle, courage and pluck as a brilliant commander resembled the summit of Mt. Paektu standing majestically in spite of any storm.

Frequenting his birthplace in the Paektusan secret camp, the youths and students, servicemen and people of the DPRK harden their faith and will to carry forward to the last the revolutionary spirit and traditions of Mt. Paektu established and enriched by their great leaders.

Kumsusan Palace of the Sun

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun was originally the Kumsusan Assembly Hall where President Kim Il Sung worked in his lifetime.

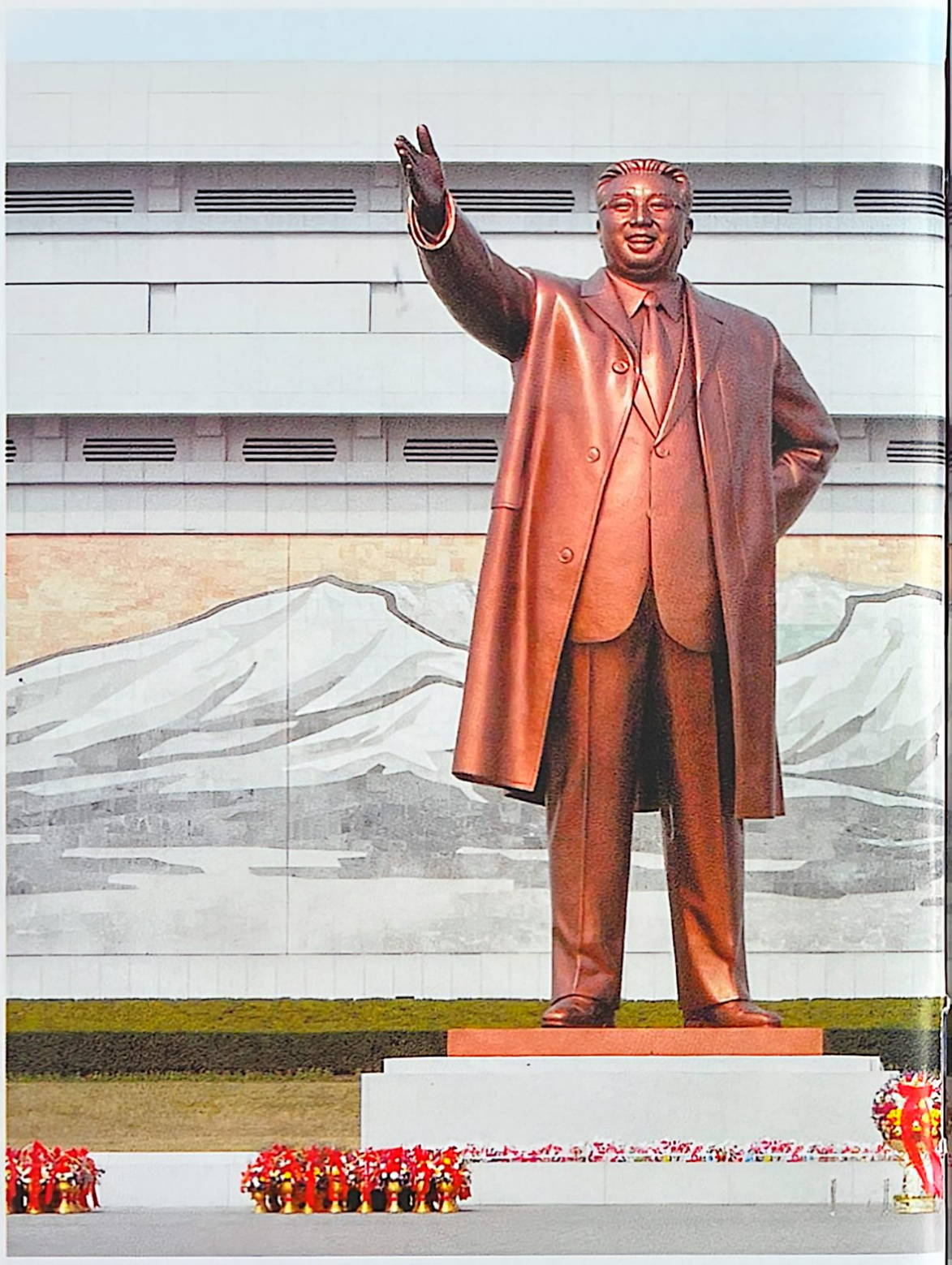
After the passing away of Kim Il Sung on July 8, Juche 83 (1994), General Kim Jong Il saw to it that the President lies in state there and named it the Kumsusan Memorial Palace.

After the demise of Kim Jong Il on December 17, Juche 100 (2011), it was renamed the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun is the grand monument of immortalizing the leaders, symbolic of Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's Korea. The palace is associated with the glorious revolutionary history and immortal exploits of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and the sacred history of the Korean revolution.

Preserved in the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun are such historic relics as the sedans, coaches, battery-powered cars and boats used by them in their lifetime, photos showing their activities and the national and foreign orders, medals and honourary titles conferred on them.

There are a vast expanse of an arboretum beside the palace and a park in front of it. The palace is surrounded by stone fences.



Statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il erected on Mansu Hill.

International Kim Il Sung Prize and International Kim Jong Il Prize

The International Kim Il Sung Prize and the International Kim Jong Il Prize are to be awarded to prominent politicians, personages, scholars and businesspersons who have made distinguished services to the struggles for the independence of their country and nation, the cause of global independence and peace and the development of human culture on the occasions of the Day of the Sun, birth anniversary of Kim Il Sung and the Day of the Shining Star, birth anniversary of Kim Jong Il.

The International Kim Il Sung Prize was instituted on April 13, Juche 82 (1993), according to the decision of the International Kim Il Sung Prize Council. A certificate, gold medal, gold medal lace and trophy shall be awarded to a winner of the prize.

The International Kim Jong Il Prize was instituted on December 24, Juche 101 (2012), according to the decision of the International Kim Jong Il Prize Council. A certificate, gold medal, gold medal lace and trophy shall be awarded to a winner of the prize.

The two councils are stationed in New Delhi of India.

International Kim Il Sung Prize certificate

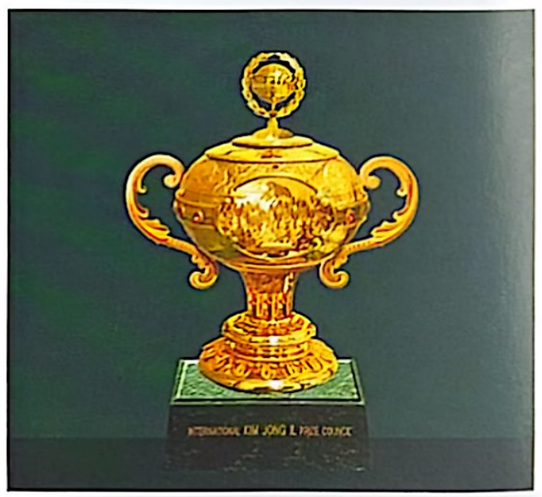
International Kim Jong Il Prize certificate

Gold medal and gold medal lace of Kim Il Sung Prize

Gold medal and gold medal lace of Kim Jong Il Prize

Kim Il Sung Prize trophy

Kim Jong Il Prize trophy



Name of State and Its Symbol

Name of the Country

The name of modern Korea is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The DPRK founded by Kim Il Sung on September 9, Juche 37 (1948) is an independent socialist state that represents the interests of the Korean people. It is the people-centred socialist country in which the masses of the people are the masters of everything and everything serves them.

Story of Naming the DPRK

Though pressed for time after liberation, Kim Il Sung paid deep attention to the issue of naming the state. In consideration of the reality that Korea was not yet reunified and the immediate task and main purpose of the Korean revolution, he said it was most reasonable to call the country the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Some people opposed it, saying that the name was too long and that other countries didn't name it so. But the President said that we should name our country by ourselves as demanded by our people as the masters of the country, that there was no need to follow others' example and that the name of the DPRK clearly reflected the independent, truly democratic and popular character of our Republic.

National Emblem

The national emblem of the DPRK was enacted on September 9, Juche 37 (1948) along with the founding of the DPRK. It is stipulated by the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK.

Mt. Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution symbolizes the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by President Kim Il Sung, father of socialist Korea, and the glorious revolutionary traditions. A five-pointed red star and its beaming light represent the bright vista for the country and the people making efforts for the building of a Juche-based thriving nation, the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the completion of the revolutionary cause of Juche. The hydroelectric power station symbolizes the powerful heavy industry and the working class and the ears of rice, the socialist rural economy and cooperative farmer. Its oval frame illustrates the invincible unity and cohesion of the Korean people rallied closely around the Party and the leader. The name of the DPRK inscribed on a red ribbon indicates that the Republic is an independent, democratic and popular state. The national emblem is elliptical and the ratio of horizontal to vertical diameters is 6 to 5.

National Flag

The national flag of the DPRK was enacted on September 9, Juche 37 (1948) along with the founding of the DPRK. It is stipulated by the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK. The red colour of the flag symbolizes the invincible might of the Korean people firmly rallied behind the Republic; the white colour shows that the Republic is the state of single nation who have lived honestly in the one country with one blood, language and culture; the blue colour is symbolic of the dashing spirit of the people who struggle for the victory of socialist cause and world peace and progress. A five-pointed red star shows the high spirit of the Korean people who vigorously advance, inheriting the tradition of anti-Japanese struggle and the prospect of the Republic. The ratio of the width to the length is one to two.

National Anthem

The national anthem of the DPRK is the *Patriotic Song*. Composed in Juche 36 (1947), it reflects the Korean people's pride in having beautiful nature, rich resources, 5 000-year-long history and brilliant cultural traditions and their lofty patriotism to build a thriving country and add eternal lustre to it, true to the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Patriotic Song

1. *Shine bright, you dawn, on this land so fair,*
   The country of three thousand ri,
   So rich in silver and in gold you are,
   Five thousand years your history.
   Our people ever were renowned and sage,
   And rich in cultural heritage,
   And as with heart and soul we strive,
   Korea shall forever thrive!

   Repeat

2. *And in the spirit of Mount Paektu,*
   With love of toil that shall never die,
   With will of iron fostered by the truth,
   We'll lead the whole world by and by.
   We have the might to foil the angry sea,
   Our land more prosperous still shall be,
   As by the people's will we strive,
   Korea shall forever thrive!

   Repeat

Story of Creating the Patriotic Song

In the autumn of Juche 35 (1946) President Kim Il Sung called officials concerned with the creation of the national anthem. At the meeting he said: We should provide our people with the national anthem as soon as possible. Our country is really a beautiful land. Our people have the 5 000-year-long history and brilliant culture. From ancient times our ancestors defended their country at the cost of their blood from the invasion of foreign aggressors and the anti-Japanese guerrillas fought against the Japanese imperialists at the risk of their lives. Today the working people are working devotedly to build a thriving country, taking power organs in their own hands. The people's national pride and dignity in having such a beautiful country and glorious fighting traditions should be represented in the song.

His instruction became the words and melody of the song as they were. It happened on the day of deliberation of the Patriotic Song. Examining one verse after another of the song, he stressed the need to repeat the song from the line "Our people ever were renowned and sage" so as to improve the effectiveness of melody and musical harmony and add solemnity to the song and the national pride to singers, saying that the part of the song could not be sung only once as our country had a brilliant culture and long history.

National Flower

The national flower of the DPRK is magnolia.

Magnolia is a shrub growing in valleys and hillsides in different parts of Korea except some northern areas. It grows 2–5 m high and bears white and fragrant blossoms at the tip of fresh branches during May and June. The beautiful and viable plant represents the spirit of the Korean nation.

The flower blossoms for 50 to 60 days. It is 7–10 cm across (15 cm at maximum) and has 6 to 9 petals and 3 stipules. It is cold-resistant and adapted to the climatic conditions of Korea.

National Bird

The national bird of the DPRK is goshawk. It inhabits the mountainous areas in the middle and northern parts of Korea. It is 48–61 cm long and weighs 0.7–1.2 kg. Its wing is 30–37 cm long and 105–130 cm long when stretched out. Its beak is sharp hook-shaped and its talons are strong and hard. Its body is mostly brown and there are four dark brown stripes on the upper part of the tail.

Though not so large, it has a balanced appearance, bright eyes, sharp beak, strong claws, high velocity and clever and determined temperament. For its bravery and agility the bird symbolizes the spirit and temperament of the Korean nation advancing vigorously through thick and thin.

Capital and Administrative Districts

Capital

The capital of the DPRK is Pyongyang.

In Pyongyang, the cradle land of the Korean nation and the heart of the Korean revolution, there are Mangyongdae where President Kim Il Sung was born and fostered the lofty aim of revolution, and the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in which the fatherly leader and the great general lie in state.

There are also the buildings of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea that organizes and guides all victories of the Korean people and the Government of the DPRK.

Pyongyang is not only the political centre of the country but the hub of science, education and culture. It has modern heavy industry, light industry and developed agriculture.

In the central part of the capital is Kim Il Sung Square. There are many streets such as Mansudae, Changjon, Chollima, Pipha, Ragwon, Chongnyon, Changgwang, Kumsong, Pulgun, Sungni, Kaeson, Kwangbok, Thongil, Munsu and An Sang Thaek streets, in which stand many modern structures, skyscraping dwelling houses and monumental edifices.

What attracts the public attention are the statues of Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il erected on Mansu Hill, Tower of the Juche Idea, Arch of Triumph, Chollima Statue, Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Memorial Tower, Party Founding Memorial Tower and Three Charters for National Reunification Memorial Tower. Pyongyang has a number of monumental structures showing the excellent architectural beauty, including the Korean Revolution Museum, Three-Revolution Exhibition, Korean Central History Museum, Korean Art Gallery, Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Grand People's Study House, Pyongyang Grand Theatre, People's Theatre, Taedongmun Cinema House, Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Pyongyang Koryo Hotel, Ryugyong Hotel, Kwangbok Area Supermarket and Pyongyang Metro.

Pyongyang is a city in a park to the letter.

The Rungna People's Pleasure Park covered with green foliage, Mangyongdae Amusement Park, Kaeson Youth Park Pleasure Ground and Taesongsan Pleasure Ground refurnished with modern facilities, picturesque Moran Hill, Taedong River, Pothong River and Ryongaksan Pleasure Ground are the cultural resorts frequented by Pyongyang citizens.

Pyongyang with a 5 000-year-long history has many relics and remains.

There are the Mausoleum of Tangun, the founder-king of the Korean nation, Mausoleum of Tongmyong, the founder-king of Koguryo, the site of Anak Royal Palace, sites of Pyongyang Walls and such relics as the Taedong Gate, Pothong Gate, Chilsong Gate, Ulmil Pavilion, Choesung Pavilion, Ryongwang Pavilion, Pubyok Pavilion and Chongnyu Pavilion.

Pyongyang was facelifted on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung. The Pyongyang Folk Park newly built at the foot of Mt. Taesong provides its visitors with an access to the 5 000-year-long history of the Korean nation.

Administrative Districts

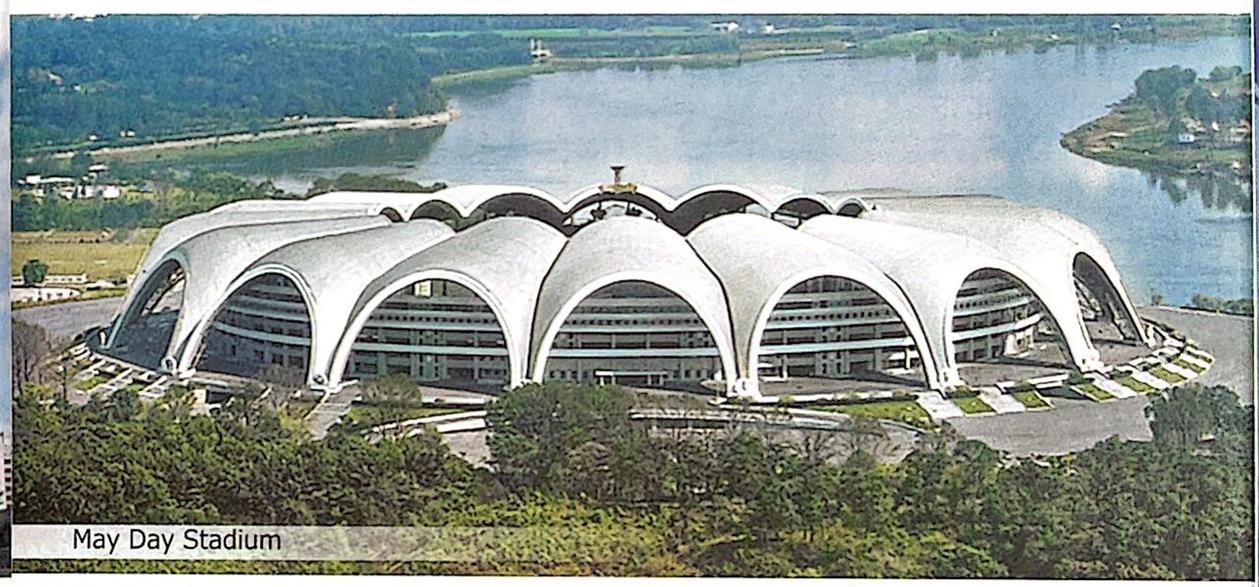
The DPRK's administrative system consists of nine provinces, one municipality, two special municipalities, 200-odd cities (districts) and counties, thousands of ris, and workers' districts and dong.

Built in Juche 50 (1961), the Chollima Statue symbolizes the indomitable spirit of the Korean people.

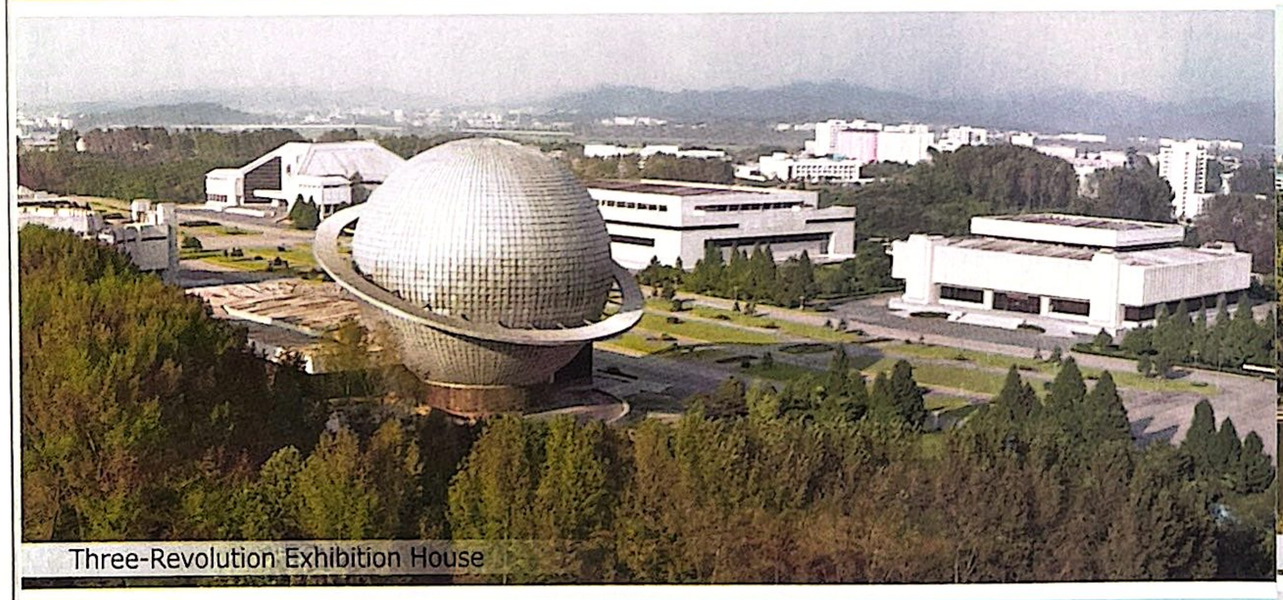
Arch of Triumph

Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace

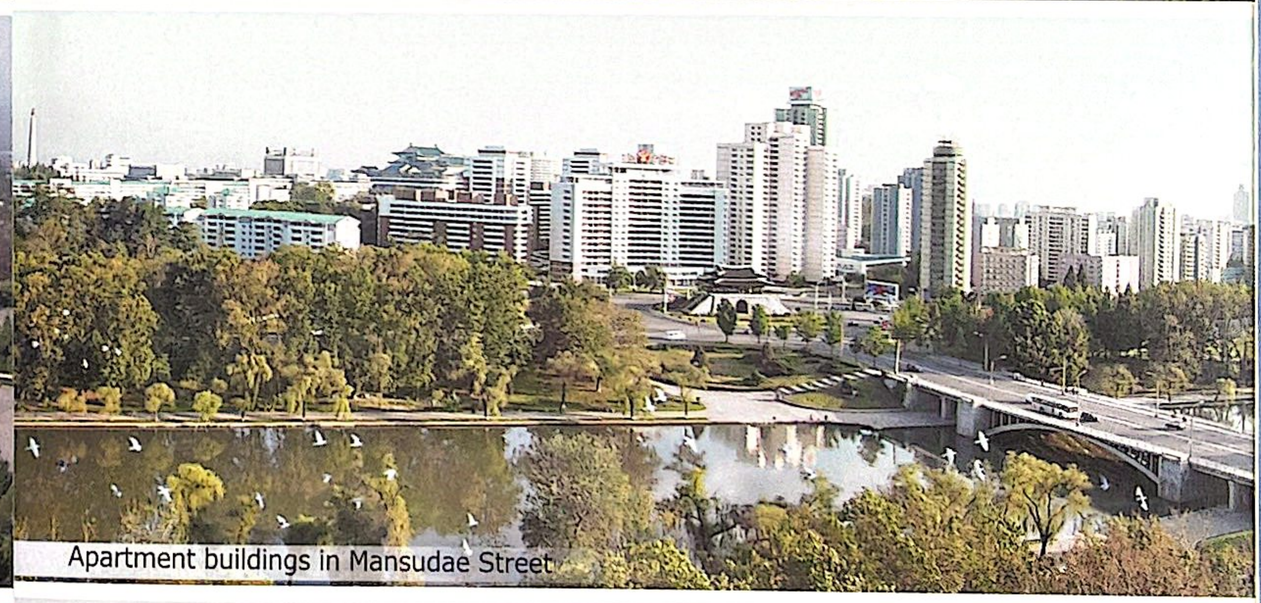
Party Founding Memorial Tower



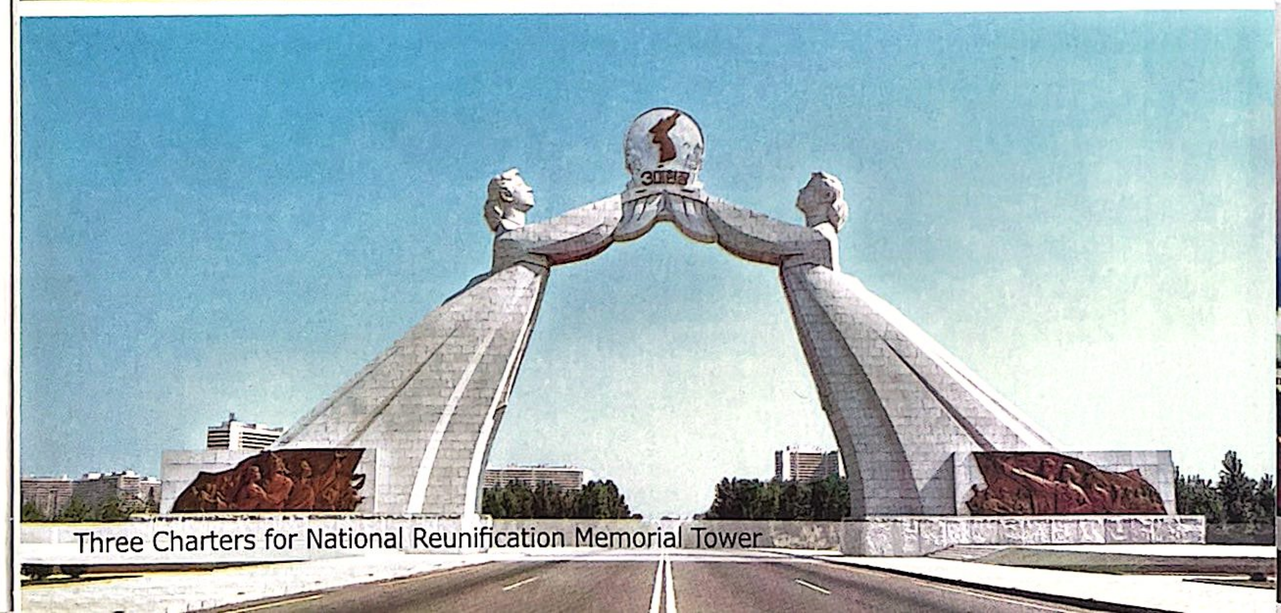
May Day Stadium



Three-Revolution Exhibition House



Apartment buildings in Mansudae Street

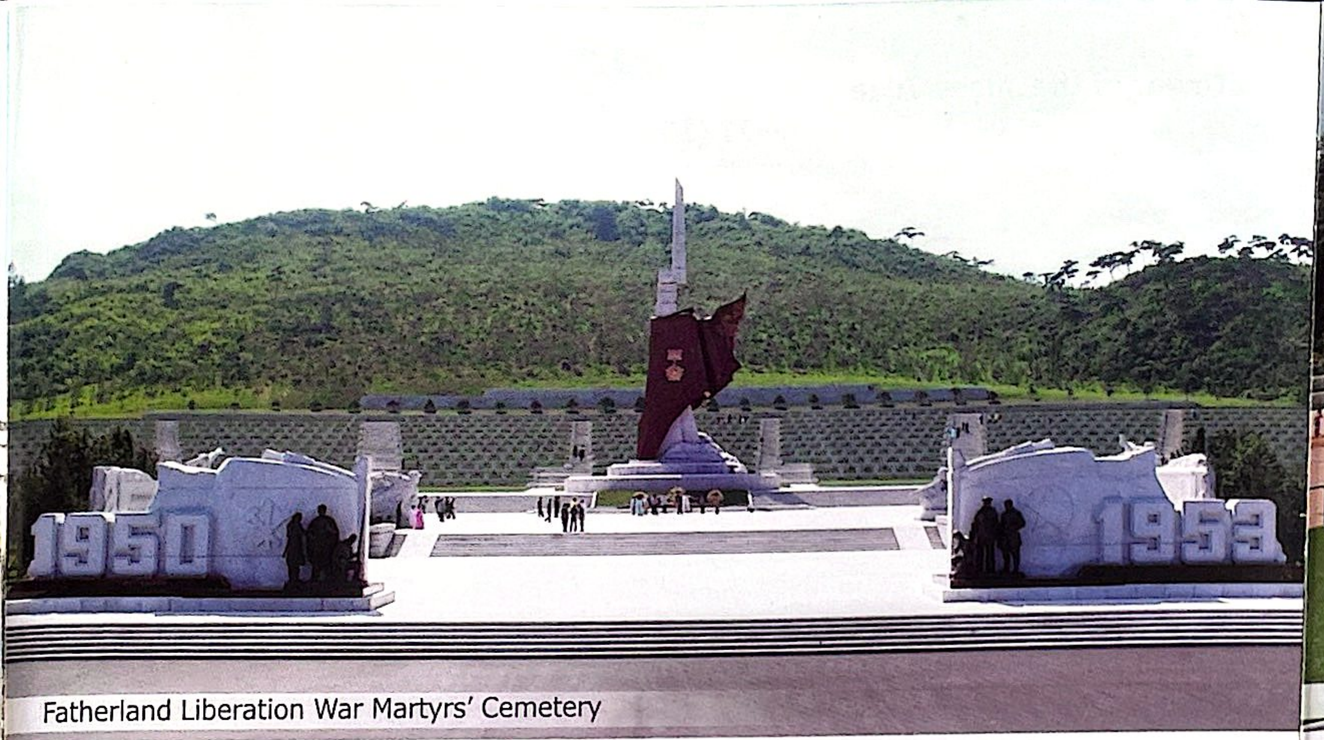


Three Charters for National Reunification Memorial Tower

Ice Rink

Changjon Street seen on Moran Hill

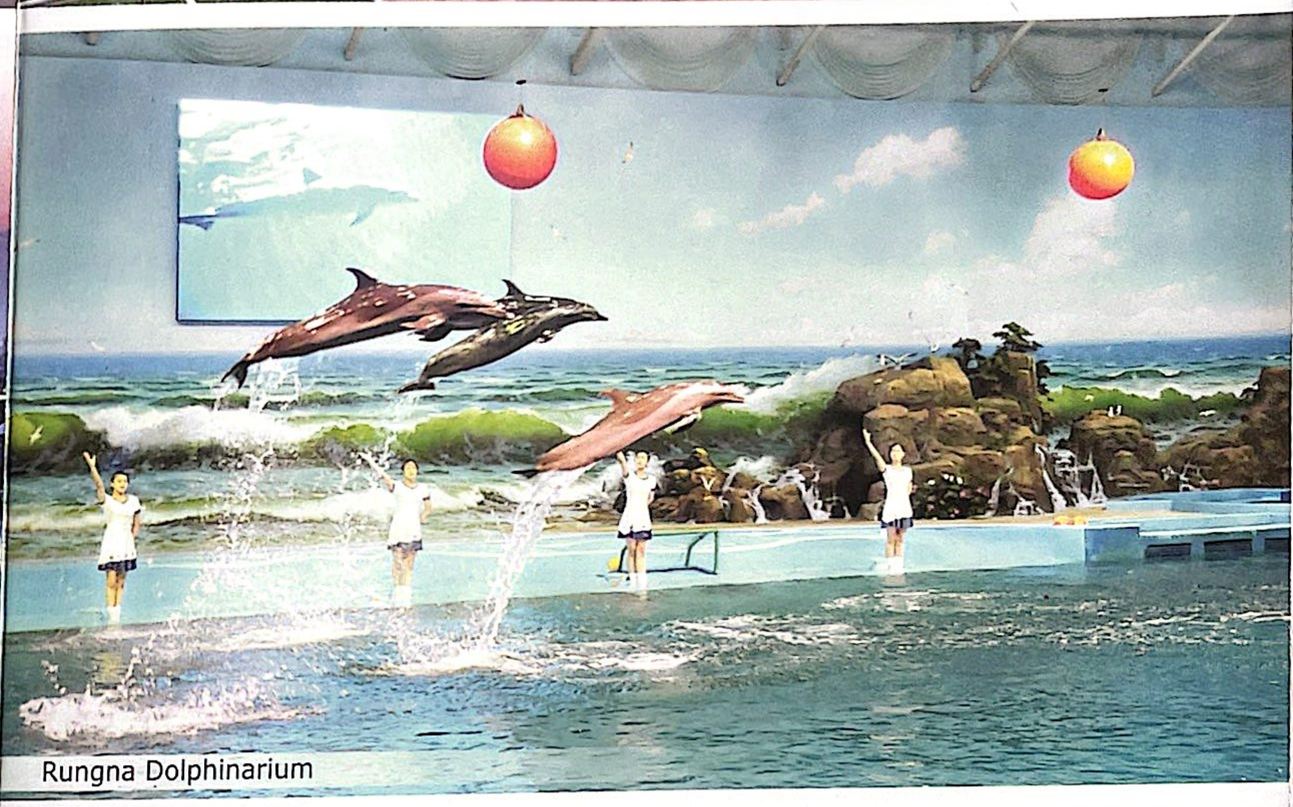
Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum



Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs' Cemetery

Rungna Wading Pool

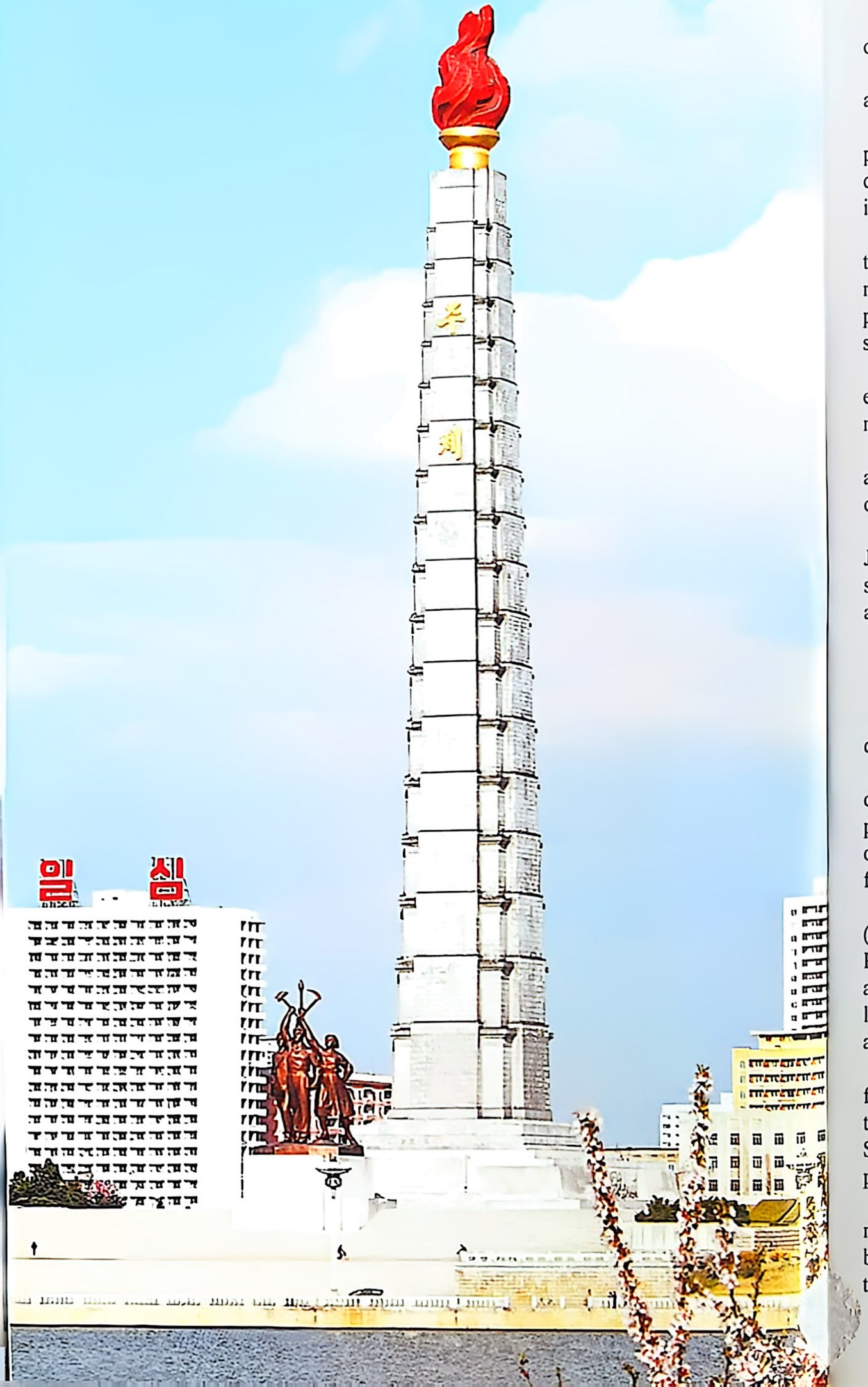
Ryugyong Health Complex and the People's Open-air Ice Rink



Rungna Dolphinarium

Pyongyang Folk Park

Tower of the Juche Idea
It was unveiled on April 15 Juche 71 (1982) to mark the 70th birth anniversary of the President Kim Il Sung.



Guiding Ideology

The DPRK is guided by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is an integrated system of the idea, theory and method of Juche and the great revolutionary ideology representative of the Juche era.

The Juche idea is, in a word, an idea that the masses of the people are the masters and motive force of the revolution and construction.

The idea has as its main contents the man-centred philosophical principle, the people-centred socio-historical principle and the principle of maintaining the independent stand and applying the creative method and placing the main stress on ideology in the revolution and construction.

On the basis of the Juche idea the revolutionary theory of Juche gives answers to the theoretical and practical problems arising on every stage and in all fields of the revolution and construction. It elucidates all the theories, ranging from the universal principle of revolution to the theories on the national liberation, class emancipation, socialist construction, national reunification and world revolution.

On the basis of the Juche idea the leadership method of Juche illumines the leadership principle and system and the working methods and styles in organizing and mobilizing the masses of the people to the revolution and construction.

The DPRK Government is thoroughly embodying Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism in all fields of the revolution and construction. It transforms the people and all spheres of society as required by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

By embodying Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, it holds fast to the principles of Juche in ideology, independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in national defence, values the Juche character and the national identity and strictly adheres to them.

Main Mode of Politics

Songun politics is the main political mode of the DPRK.

The politics is based on the Songun idea authored by President Kim Il Sung and developed by General Kim Jong Il.

Kim Il Sung, who embarked on the road of revolutionary struggle to save the destiny of his country and people in his early years, consistently maintained the principle of giving foremost precedence to the military affairs in the whole course of the revolution and construction, holding fast to the priniciple for nearly 70 years from the mid-1920s.

General Kim Jong Il started his Songun-based leadership on August 25, Juche 49 (1960) and administered Songun politics from the late 1960s, true to the intention of President Kim Il Sung. Based on a scientific analysis of the changes in the political arena of the world and the difficulties facing the DPRK in the closing years of the last century, he formulated Songun politics as the main political mode of socialism and applied it in an all-round way.

Songun politics is a unique political mode of socialism Kim Jong Il put forth for the first time in history by embodying the philosophy of arms that the revolution is pioneered, advanced and brought to completion by means of rifles and the Songun revolutionary principle that the army is precisely the Party, the state and the people.

The objective of Songun politics is to proactively cope with the aggressive manoeuvres of foreign forces by strengthening the country's military power and to build a thriving socialist nation by promoting the overall socialist construction with the army as the core and driving force.

State Political System

Character, Duty and Ultimate Aim of the State

The DPRK is a socialist country of Juche which embodies the idea and leadership of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il.

It is an independent socialist state representing the interests of the Korean people. In other words, it represents the interests of all the Koreans, including those in the north and south and overseas and it is a country which has been built by the masses themselves and run according to their demands and will, a country in which the masses are the masters of everything and everything serves them.

It is the main revolutionary tasks facing the DPRK government to strengthen the people's power, to achieve the complete victory of socialism by dynamically carrying out the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, and to reunify the country on the principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

Under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea the Korean people, closely united around Marshal Kim Jong Un, are stepping up the drive to carry the socialist cause through to the end, holding Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il in high esteem as their eternal leaders.

Socialist Constitution of the DPRK

With the socialist construction developed in the country, the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK was adopted for the first time on December 27, Juche 61 (1972).

The Socialist Constitution was amended and supplemented at the Fifth Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly held on April 13, Juche 101 (2012). It legalized Generalissimos Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's Juche-based ideas and achievements of state-building and named it the Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong Il Constitution.

It stipulates that Kim Il Sung is upheld as the eternal President of the DPRK and Kim Jong Il as the eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK.

The Seventh Session of the 12th SPA held on April 1, Juche 102 (2013) amended and supplemented the preamble of the Socialist Constitution that the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il lie in state is the grand edifice for the immortality of the leaders, a symbol of the dignity of all the Korean people and their eternal sanctuary, and adopted the DPRK Law on the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

It also stipulates the principles and ways of politics, the economy, culture and national defence, the fundamental rights and duties of citizens and the composition, duties and activity principles of state organs.

The Socialist Constitution consists of the preamble, seven chapters and 172 articles.

State Organs

The Supreme People's Assembly is the highest organ of State power in the DPRK. That is, it represents the entire people and exercises the legislative power. It is composed of deputies elected on the principle of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

The First Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK is the supreme leader of the DPRK. As the Supreme Commander of the whole armed forces of the DPRK, he commands and directs all armed forces of the State and personally guides the overall affairs of the State and the work of the National Defence Commission. He also ratifies or rescinds major treaties concluded with other countries, exercises the right of granting special pardon, proclaims a state of emergency, a state of war and mobilization order within the country and issues orders.

The National Defence Commission is the supreme defence leadership body of State power, which maps out important policies of the State for administering Songun politics and directs the whole armed forces and defence building of the State.

The Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly is the highest organ of State power when the SPA is not in session. The President of the Presidium of the SPA represents the State and receives the credentials and letters of recall of diplomatic representatives accredited by foreign countries.

The Cabinet is the administrative and executive body of the highest State power and organ of overall State administration. The Premier of the Cabinet represents the Government of the DPRK. The Cabinet is accountable to the SPA and to the Presidium of the SPA when the SPA is not in session.

The local organ of State power is the local people's assembly. The local people's assembly deliberates and approves the local plan for the development of the national economy and the local budget and the reports on their implementation. It also adopts measures to observe State laws in the area concerned.

The People's Committee of a province (or municipality directly under central authority), city (or district) and county exercises the function of the local organ of State power when the People's Assembly at the corresponding level is not in session and the administrative and executive organ of State power at the corresponding level.

The DPRK's Public Prosecutors Office is a State organ that supervises the observance and execution of the socialist law. Investigation and prosecution are conducted by the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, the Public Prosecutors Offices of a province (or municipality directly under central authority), city (or district) or county and the Special Public Prosecutors Office.

The judicial organ is a State organ which exercises the socialist jurisdiction. Justice is administered by the Supreme Court, the Court of a province (or municipality directly under central authority), the City (or District) and County People's Courts, and the Special Court. Verdicts are delivered in the name of the DPRK. The People's Assessors are elected by the soldiers of the unit concerned or by employees at their meetings. They attend trials with the same authority as a judge, decide and deal with all cases.

Provisional People's Committee of North Korea and People's Committee of North Korea

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea (PPCNK) was organized on February 8, Juche 35 (1946), right after Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation.

President Kim Il Sung made sure that the people themselves organized a power of united-front form led by the working class in keeping with their own actual conditions and, on the basis of it, established a central power organ. Under his leadership local power organs were set up first, to be followed by the establishment of the Ten Administrative Bureaus of North Korea. The PPCNK was finally organized on its basis.

He was elected the Chairman of the PPCNK in accordance with the will and desire of the people.

On November 3, Juche 35 (1946), a democratic election, the first of its kind in the 5 000-year-long history of Korea, was held. As a result, the People's Committee of North Korea (PCNK) was established in February Juche 36 (1947). President Kim Il Sung was elected the Chairman of the PCNK in accordance with the unanimous will of the Korean people.

As the supreme executive organ of the people's power of north Korea, the PCNK was the first socialist government in Korea.

Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

The DPRK is substantially providing the people with genuine political freedom and rights according to the basic requirement of the Juche idea on ensuring the independence and creativity of man.

In the DPRK the rights and duties of citizens are based on the collectivist principle: "One for all and all for one".

The Socialist Constitution of the DPRK stipulates that the State shall effectively guarantee the genuine democratic rights and freedoms as well as all the conditions for ensuring the material and cultural well-being of all the citizens.

All citizens who have reached the age of 17 have the right to elect and to be elected, irrespective of sex, race, occupation, length of residence, property status, education, party affiliation, political views or religious belief. They are guaranteed freedom of speech, the press, assembly, demonstration and association. They have freedom of religious belief. They are entitled to submit complaints and petitions.

Workers, peasants and other working people take part in the state administration as the masters of State power and are embraced in political parties and social organizations to conduct free socio-political activities. They have the rights to work, relaxation, education and free medical care. They are free to engage in scientific, literary and artistic pursuits.

Women are accorded equal social status and rights with men. Mothers and children are under special protection of the State.

Marriage and the family are protected by the State. Citizens are guaranteed inviolability of the person and the home, and privacy of correspondence.

The rights and freedoms of citizens are being amplified with the consolidation and development of socialist system.

The Socialist Constitution of the DPRK sets it as a noble duty of citizens to firmly safeguard the political and ideological unity and solidarity of the people.

Citizens must strictly observe the laws of the State and the socialist standards of life, defend their honour and dignity as citizens of the DPRK and regard labour as a noble duty and honour.

It is also a duty of citizens to take good care of the property of the State and social, cooperative organizations, combat all forms of misappropriation and waste and manage the nation's economy diligently as the masters.

All the citizens regard it as their supreme duty and honour to sharpen revolutionary vigilance and devotedly fight for the security of the State and national defence.

Socio-economic System

Relations of Ownership and Supreme Principle of State Activities

The ownership of the means of production by the State and social and cooperative organizations constitutes the economic bases of the DPRK as the two forms of socialist ownership of the means of production.

The property of the State belongs to all the people and there is no limit to the property which the State can own. Accordingly, the people are equal in the ownership of the means of production and take part in the work of managing the national property. The State property is used for the development of the country and the promotion of the people's well-being.

The property of social and cooperative organizations is collectively owned by the working people involved in the organizations concerned. It includes land, farm machinery, ships and small- and medium-sized factories and enterprises.

The State increases the role of the property of all the people in leading the cooperative property so as to combine the two forms of property in an organic way, consolidates and develops the socialist cooperative economic system by improving the guidance and management of the cooperative economy and gradually transforms the property of cooperative organizations into the property of the people as a whole based on the voluntary will of all their members.

Private property is derived from socialist distribution according to work done and from supplementary benefits granted by the State and society. It includes the products of individual sideline activities including those from kitchen gardens, as well as income from other legal economic activities. The State protects the private property of the working people and guarantees by law the right to inherit it.

The State regards it as the supreme principle of its activities to steadily improve the material and cultural standards of the people.

The State takes care of the people as the master responsible for their livelihood. Workers, peasants and office workers exercise the right to labour to their heart's content and enjoy supplementary benefits from the State in addition to the distribution according to work done. They are provided with modern dwelling houses free of charge as well as enough conditions for labour protection and education. Accommodation at health resorts and holiday homes at state expense came into effect even around the end of the last century when the economic situation of the country was at the worst.

The DPRK applied a tax system for the sake of the people and gradually lowered the tax. It abolished the agricultural tax in kind in the mid-1960s and the tax system completely in the 1970s.

Principle and System of Economic Guidance and Management

The DPRK firmly adheres to the principle of properly combining political guidance with economic and technical guidance, the unified guidance of the State with the creativeness of each unit, unitary direction with democracy, and political and moral incentive with material incentive in the guidance and management of the socialist economy.

The State directs and manages the national economy through the Taean work system, a socialist form of economic management whereby the economy is operated and managed scientifically and rationally on the basis of the collective efforts of the producer masses, and through the system of agricultural guidance whereby agricultural management is conducted by industrial methods. It enforces the self-accounting system in economic management to meet the requirements of the Taean work system and make proper use of such economic levers as cost, price and profit.

The national economy of the DPRK is a planned economy. The State ensures a high rate of growth in production and a balanced development of the national economy by implementing unified and detailed planning.

Major Political Parties and Public Organizations

Names of Political Parties and Public Organizations	Date of founding
Workers' Party of Korea	Oct. 10, Juche 34 (1945)
Korean Social Democratic Party	Nov. 3, Juche 34 (1945)
Chondoist Chongu Party	Feb. 8, Juche 35 (1946)
General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea	Nov. 30, Juche 34 (1945)
Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea	Jan. 31, Juche 35 (1946)
Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League	Jan. 17, Juche 35 (1946)
Democratic Women's Union of Korea	Nov. 18, Juche 34 (1945)
Democratic Front for the Reunification of Korea	Jul. 22, Juche 35 (1946)
Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea	May 13, Juche 50 (1961)
General Federation of the Unions of Art and Literature of Korea	Mar. 25, Juche 35 (1946)
Journalists Union of Korea	Oct. 11, Juche 35 (1946)
General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea	Apr. 14, Juche 35 (1946)
Democratic Lawyers Association of Korea	Nov. 30, Juche 43 (1954)
Students Committee of Korea	May 20, Juche 49 (1960)
National Peace Committee of Korea	Mar. 24, Juche 38 (1949)
Korean Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity	May 31, Juche 45 (1956)
Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World People	May 17, Juche 63 (1974)

Anti-Imperialist Veterans Committee of Korea	Jun. 13, Juche 74 (1985)
Consultative Council of Former South Korean Public Figures in the North for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification	Jul. 2, Juche 45 (1956)
Christian Federation of Korea	Nov. 28, Juche 34 (1945)
Chondoist Association of Korea	Feb. 14, Juche 36 (1947)
Buddhist Federation of Korea	Dec. 26, Juche 34 (1945)
Korean Catholics Association	Jun. 30, Juche 77 (1988)
Red Cross Society of Korea	Oct. 18, Juche 35 (1946)
Architects Union of Korea	Mar. 26, Juche 43 (1954)
Nature Conservation Union of Korea	Nov. 29, Juche 48 (1959)
Doctors Association of Korea	Jun. 19, Juche 59 (1970)

National Reunification

Historical Root

The Korean nation is a homogeneous nation that has lived historically on the same territory with the same blood, language and customs.

The Korean people, who had put an end to the Japanese occupation and dreamed a bright future on the land of their liberated country, have been suffering the tragedy of national division by the US that has occupied south Korea since the end of World War II.

A reinforced concrete wall stands in the southern part of the 240-odd-km Military Demarcation Line which bisects the Korean peninsula.

The DPRK put forth national reunification as the most pressing historical task of the nation and is waging a dynamic struggle for its realization.

The 38th Parallel and Military Demarcation Line

The US fabricated the 38th Parallel to split Korea just before Japan's unconditional surrender.

About this, the then US President Truman said that fixing the 38th Parallel as a line for dividing Korea had not been raised in international discussions, but was proposed by the US side. As he confessed, the US was very anxious about the general attack by the Korean People's Revolutionary Army on August 9, Juche 34 (1945) and the start of the anti-Japanese operations by the Soviet troops. It was because these forces could advance southward swiftly to occupy the whole of Korea at one go. Harbouring an ambition to seize Korea by all means, Truman gave instructions that this problem be settled by the Coordinating Committee of Three Departments of the State, the War and the Navy. The army officers gathered at the Department of Defence (most of them were colonels) and drew a division line along the 38th Parallel north latitude on their map. And they worked out a "final plan" that the Japanese troops in Manchuria, the area north of the 38th Parallel of Korea and Sakhalin had to offer surrender to the commander-in-chief of the Soviet Far East Army and those in Japan proper, the area south of the 38th Parallel of Korea and the Philippines to the commander-in-chief of the US forces in the Far East. Truman immediately informed the Soviet government of this plan which was codified as General Order No. 1. According to it, the US forces, under the pretext of disarming Japanese troops, landed in Inchon of south Korea on September 8, 20-odd days after the declaration of the unconditional surrender by Japan on August 15 Juche 34 (1945). Since then Koreans that had lived as a homogeneous nation for 5 000 years had to suffer the bitter pain of national split.

After the Korean war (1950–1953) unleashed by the US, the 38th Parallel was replaced by a military demarcation line according to the Korean Armistice Agreement. Standing on the line is the reinforced concrete wall, 5–8 m high, 10–19 m wide and 3–7 m wide at the base and at the top, respectively, threatening to divide the Korean nation for ever.

Three Charters for National Reunification

The three charters for national reunification formulated by Kim Jong Il comprise the Three Principles for National Reunification, the 10–Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation and the Proposal for Founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo set forth by President Kim Il Sung.

Three Principles for National Reunification

The Three Principles for National Reunification set forth by Kim Il Sung at the talks with the south Korean delegates who took part in the inter-Korean high-level political talks on May 3 and November 3, Juche 61 (1972) includes independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

The principles call for settling the reunification problem independently by the Korean nation's own efforts and without the interference of foreign forces, reunifying the country in a peaceful way without recourse to arms and promoting the great unity of the whole nation transcending the differences in idea, ideal and system. They constitute the cornerstone of national reunification as they elucidate the basic stand and ways for solving Korea's reunification problem by the nation's own efforts in accordance with the nation's will and interests. They are also a common national reunification programme which both the north and the south confirmed through the July 4, Juche 61 (1972) North-South Joint Statement and declared solemnly at home and abroad.

Proposal for Founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo

In the report to the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in October Juche 69 (1980) President Kim Il Sung said that the quickest and most confident way to national reunification was to form a single federal state through the joint efforts of the north and the south, leaving each other's ideas and social systems as they are.

The proposal calls for the formation of a unified national government in which the north and the south are represented on an equal footing and under which the both sides exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties, that is, the establishment of a unified federal state. This means that the country's reunification is realized by establishing a federation based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments. The proposal impartially takes into account the interests of the authorities, the people of all walks of life, every party and every group in the north and the south and advocates the formation of a unified national government which is acceptable to either side, any class and any party without their interests being infringed upon. Kim Il Sung said that the federal state will assume an independent and democratic character and had better be named the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo after Koryo, the first unified state in the Korean history, by reflecting the common political ideal of the north and the south aspiring after democracy.

Kim Il Sung elucidated the ten-point policy to be enforced by the DFRK in all fields including politics, the economy, culture, military affairs, people's livelihood and foreign relations, clarifying that the DFRK would be an independent, democratic, neutral, non-aligned and peace-loving country.

The Proposal for Founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo and its ten-point policy arose great sympathy and won support from the north and the south of Korea, as well as from the international community.

10-Point Programme for the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country

In April Juche 82 (1993), when a new grave difficulty was created on the road to national reunification owing to the imperialists' moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK and the treacherous acts of the south Korean authorities, Kim Il Sung made public the 10-Point Programme for the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country. The programme elucidates that all the compatriots in the north, in the south and abroad must hasten national reunification through the great unity of the whole nation and the nation's own efforts, transcending differences in idea, social system, religious belief and property status.

10-Point Programme for the Great Unity of the Whole Nation

1. A unified state, independent, peaceful and neutral, should be founded through the great unity of the whole nation.
2. Unity should be based on patriotism and the spirit of national independence.
3. Unity should be achieved on the principle of promoting co-existence, co-prosperity and common interests and subordinating everything to the cause of national reunification.
4. All political disputes that foment division and confrontation between fellow countrymen should be ended and unity should be achieved.
5. The fear of invasion from both south and north, and the ideas of prevailing over communism and communization should be dispelled, and north and south should believe in each other and unite.
6. The north and south should value democracy and join hands on the road to national reunification, without rejecting each other because of differences in ideals and principles.
7. The north and south should protect the material and spiritual wealth of individuals and organizations and encourage their use for the promotion of great national unity.
8. Understandings, trust and unity should be built up across the nation through contact, exchange visits and dialogue.
9. The whole nation, north, south and overseas, should strengthen its solidarity for the sake of national reunification.
10. Those who have contributed to the great unity of the nation and to the cause of national reunification should be honoured.

Under the Ideal of By Our Nation Itself

In June Juche 89 (2000), thanks to Kim Jong Il's iron will for national reunification and great decision, the inter-Korean summit meeting, the first of its kind, was held in Pyongyang and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration was adopted. This was a historic event in that it cleared the darkness of mistrust and confrontation that persisted between the north and the south for more than half a century and opened a new era of advancing toward independent reunification by the concerted efforts of nation. The June 15 Joint Declaration is a milestone of national reunification illuminating the road ahead of the nation to the realization of independent reunification under the ideal of By Our Nation Itself.

Kim Jong Il, firmly determined to open a new era of independent reunification, peace and prosperity by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation itself, arranged another round of historic north-south summit meeting in October Juche 96 (2007), where the October 4 Declaration, the action programme of the June 15 Joint Declaration, was adopted. The October 4 Declaration specifies the ways for developing the inter-Korean relations, accelerating national reconciliation and unity and opening a new era of peace and prosperity in accordance with the spirit of By Our Nation Itself.

North-South Joint Declaration [June 15, Juche 89 (2000)]

1. The north and the south agreed to solve the question of the country's reunification independently by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation responsible for it.

2. The north and the south, recognizing that the low-level federation proposed by the north and the commonwealth system proposed by the south for the reunification of the country have similarity, agreed to work together for the reunification in this direction in the future.

3. The north and the south agreed to settle humanitarian issues as early as possible, including the exchange of visiting groups of separated families and relatives and the issue of unconverted long-term prisoners, to mark August 15 this year.

4. The north and the south agreed to promote the balanced development of the national economy through economic cooperation and build mutual confidence by activating cooperation and exchange in all fields, social, cultural, sports, public health, environmental and so on.

5. The north and the south agreed to hold an authority-to-authority negotiation as soon as possible to put the above-mentioned agreed points into speedy operation.

Declaration for Development of North-South Relations and Peace and Prosperity [October 4, Juche 96 (2007)]

1. The north and the south shall uphold and positively implement the June 15 Joint Declaration.
   They agreed to independently settle the reunification issue in the spirit of By Our Nation Itself, attach overriding importance to the dignity and interests of the nation and orientate everything to this objective.
   They agreed to devise the way to commemorate June 15 in reflection of the will to invariably implement the joint declaration.
2. The north and the south agreed to definitely convert north-south relations into those of mutual respect and confidence, transcending the differences in ideology and system.
   They agreed not to interfere in the internal affairs of the other side but solve problems related to north-south relations in conformity with reconciliation, cooperation and reunification.
   They agreed to adjust their legal and institutional mechanisms with a view to developing inter-Korean relations to meet the purpose of reunification.
   They agreed to positively promote dialogue and contacts in all fields including parliaments of both sides to settle the issues related to boosting inter-Korean relations in line with the desire of the nation.
3. The north and the south agreed to closely cooperate with each other in the efforts to put an end to hostile military relations and ensure détente and peace on the Korean peninsula.
   They agreed not to show enmity towards each other but to ease the military tension and settle disputes through dialogue and negotiations.
   They agreed to oppose any war on the peninsula and faithfully honour the commitment of non-aggression.
   They agreed to hold talks between the minister of the People's Armed Forces of the north side and the minister of National Defence of the south side in Pyongyang within November this year with a view to discussing measures for building military confidence including the proposal for fixing waters for joint fishing and turning them into peaceful ones in order to prevent accidental clashes in the West Sea and the issue of providing military guarantee for all forms of cooperation projects.
4. The north and the south shared the understanding about the need to put an end to the existing armistice mechanism and build a lasting peace mechanism and agreed to cooperate with each other in the efforts to push forward with the issue of arranging the meeting of heads of state of three or four parties directly concerned on the Korean peninsula to declare an end to war.
   They agreed to make joint efforts to ensure the smooth implementation of the September 19 joint statement and February 13 agreement published at the six-party talks for the settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.
5. The north and the south agreed to reenergize economic cooperation and bring about its sustained development on the principles of ensuring common interests and coprosperity and meeting each other's need with a view to balanced development of the national economy and common prosperity.
   They agreed to encourage investment for economic cooperation and push forward with the building of economic infrastructure and the development of resources and grant all manner of preferential treatment and privilege to suit the peculiarities of cooperation undertakings between compatriots.

They agreed to establish a "special zone for peace and cooperation in the West Sea" covering Haeju area and waters off its surrounding areas and push such undertakings as to fix waters for joint fishing and peace water area, build special economic zone, actively use Haeju Port, allow civilian vessels to directly pass through Haeju Port and jointly use the estuary of the Rimjin River.

They agreed to complete the first-phase project of the Kaesong Industrial Park at an early date, start its second-phase development, begin the railway freight transport between Munsan and Pongdong and rapidly take all measures for institutional guarantee including the issues of passage, communications and customs clearance.

They agreed to discuss and push the issue of reconstructing and repairing the railways between Kaesong and Sinuiju and the motorway between Kaesong and Pyongyang in order to jointly use them.

They agreed to build zones for cooperation in ship-building in Anbyon and Nampho and conduct cooperation projects in different fields including agriculture, health care and environmental protection.

They agreed to upgrade the existing "North-South Committee for the Promotion of Economic Cooperation" to a "joint committee for inter-Korean economic cooperation" at vice-premier's level for the smooth promotion of inter-Korean economic cooperation.

6. The north and the south agreed to develop exchange and cooperation in social and cultural fields such as history, language, education, science and technology, culture and the arts and sports to add brilliance to the time-honoured history and fine culture of the nation.

They agreed to start the tour of Mt. Paektu and, to this end, open the Mt. Paektu-Seoul direct air route.

They agreed to let the cheering groups of the north and the south attend the 2008 Beijing Olympics by using the train to run on the west coastal line for the first time.

7. The north and the south agreed to push forward with humanitarian cooperation.

They agreed to expand the meeting of separated families and relatives and promote the exchange of video correspondence.

To this end, they agreed to permanently post representatives of both sides at the reunion centre at Mt. Kumgang resort when completed with a view to putting the meeting of separated families and relatives on a regular basis.

They agreed to positively cooperate with each other in case of calamities including natural disaster on the principle of compatriotism, humanitarianism and mutual support and assistance.

8. The north and the south agreed to strengthen cooperation in the efforts to protect the interests of the nation and the rights and interests of overseas Koreans on the international arena.

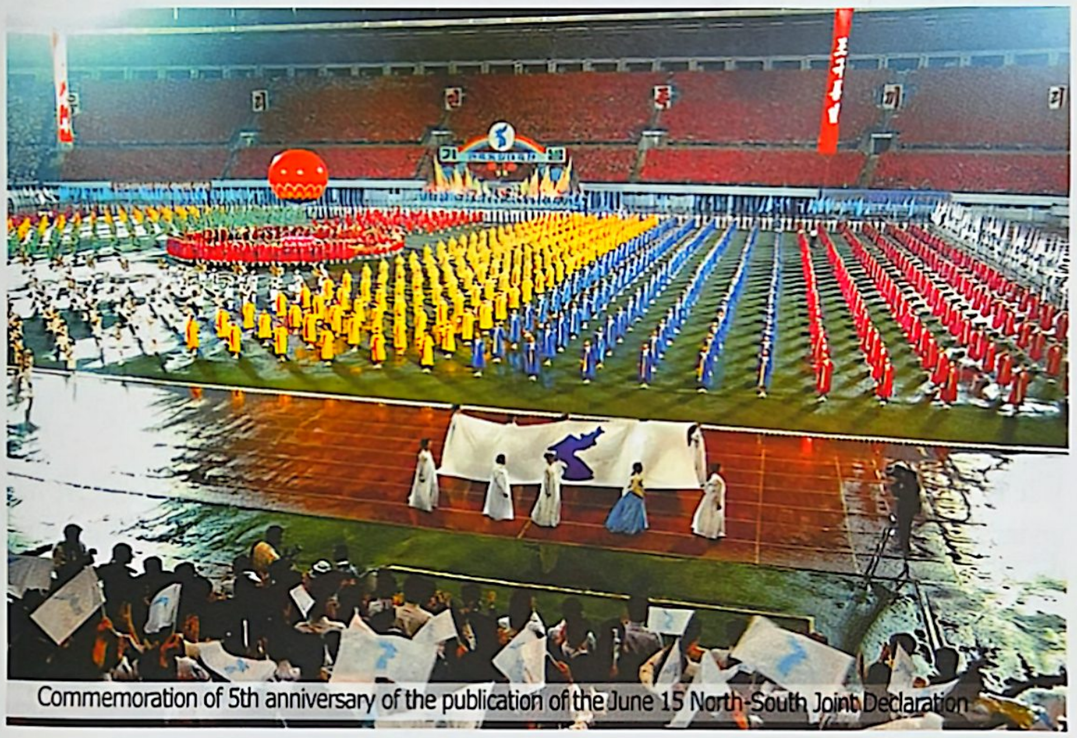
They agreed to hold the talks between the premier of the north and the prime minister of the south for the implementation of this declaration and decided to hold their first meeting in Seoul within November this year.

They reached an agreement on ensuring that the top leaders of both sides meet from time to time to discuss pending issues for the development of inter-Korean relations.

The 10th meeting of separated families and relatives

Groundbreaking ceremony of Kaesong Industrial Park

Ceremony to relink the inter-Korean railway



Commemoration of 5th anniversary of the publication of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration

Movement of Overseas Koreans

Problem of the Overseas Koreans

The number of Koreans living in different countries of the world amounts to several millions. Most of them are those who were dragged to Japan for military service or forced labour, those who drifted to other alien lands in search of living and their off-springs.

President Kim Il Sung, viewing the matter of overseas Koreans as an issue of the nation's independence, took measures to ensure and protect by law their status by ensuring that the Nationality Law of the DPRK was enacted and promulgated. He also saw to it that the great national unity was realized with overseas compatriots for the country's reunification and prosperity of the nation.

Main Criteria of a Nation

This happened one day in October Juche 49 (1960) during a Korean history lecture for the students of the economics faculty at Kim Il Sung University, while Kim Jong Il was enrolled at it.

A student raised a question as to how to view the overseas Koreans, citing a classic proposition that the criteria of a nation include the community of language, territory, economic life and psychology and culture, and that lack of anyone of these four criteria cannot give rise to the formation of a nation. He meant that according to the author of the classic, overseas Koreans do not belong to the Korean nation.

Kim Jong Il said that the classic that was written in the given historical period cannot give answers to all the current problems arising in the revolution and building of a new society, and that the answer to the question should be found in the works of Kim Il Sung.

He continued that the major criteria characteristic of a nation are the commonness in blood, language and territory, but of them the commonness in blood and language is the most important criterion featuring the nation.

Organizations of Overseas Koreans

The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon)

The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan was formed on May 25, Juche 44 (1955).

Chongryon represents and safeguards the national rights and interests of Koreans in Japan and conducts a patriotic struggle for the country and nation by relying on their concerted efforts.

The organization is composed of the central standing committee, prefectural headquarters, chapters and branches. It has organizations of the people from all walks of life like young people, women, businessmen, educators, men of culture and religionists, working organizations in the fields of speech, publication, news service, the press, scientific research, art, sports and economic trade and a national art troupe. It has established a regular educational system ranging from kindergartens to a university, and enforces democratic, national education.

The General Association of Korean Nationals in China

Formed on February 2, Juche 84 (1995), it embraces over two million Koreans in China, most of whom live in its three northeastern provinces.

It is headquartered in Shenyang and issues its organ, titled *Paektu-Halla*. It has under it such organizations as the Federation of Korean Economic Workers in China, the Federation of Korean Youth in China and an art troupe. There are other overseas organizations in Russia and different regions of the world. They are the Central Association of Koreans in Russia struggling for the reunification and prosperity of the fatherland, International United Confederation of Koreans and so on.

Tripartite Solidarity of Fellow Countrymen in the North, in the South and Abroad

The Korean people are determined to make joint efforts for the reunification and common prosperity of the nation, whether they live in the north, in the south or abroad. Accordingly, the Pan-National Alliance for Korea's Reunification (Pomminryon) was formed in Berlin in November Juche 79 (1990). Its overseas headquarters was formed in December the same year, its north headquarters in January the following year and its south headquarters in Juche 84 (1995).

In August Juche 81 (1992) the Pan-National Alliance of Youth and Students for Korea's Reunification was formed.

Educational Aid Funds and Stipends

In April Juche 46 (1957) when the laying of the socialist foundation was in full swing in the DPRK following postwar reconstruction, a decision was adopted to send educational aid funds and stipends to the sons and daughters of Korean residents in Japan.

At that time President Kim Il Sung saw to it that educational aid funds and stipends for the overseas compatriots were included in the state's budget and sent every year, though everything was in short supply to the extent that production of 10 000 tons of steel in addition to the planned quota would ease the heavy burden of the country. The first batch of educational aid funds and stipends sent were so huge that tens of thousands of tons of steel could be purchased with it. The Korean residents in Japan built Korea University, the first university of overseas nationals in the world, with the second batch.

Korea University

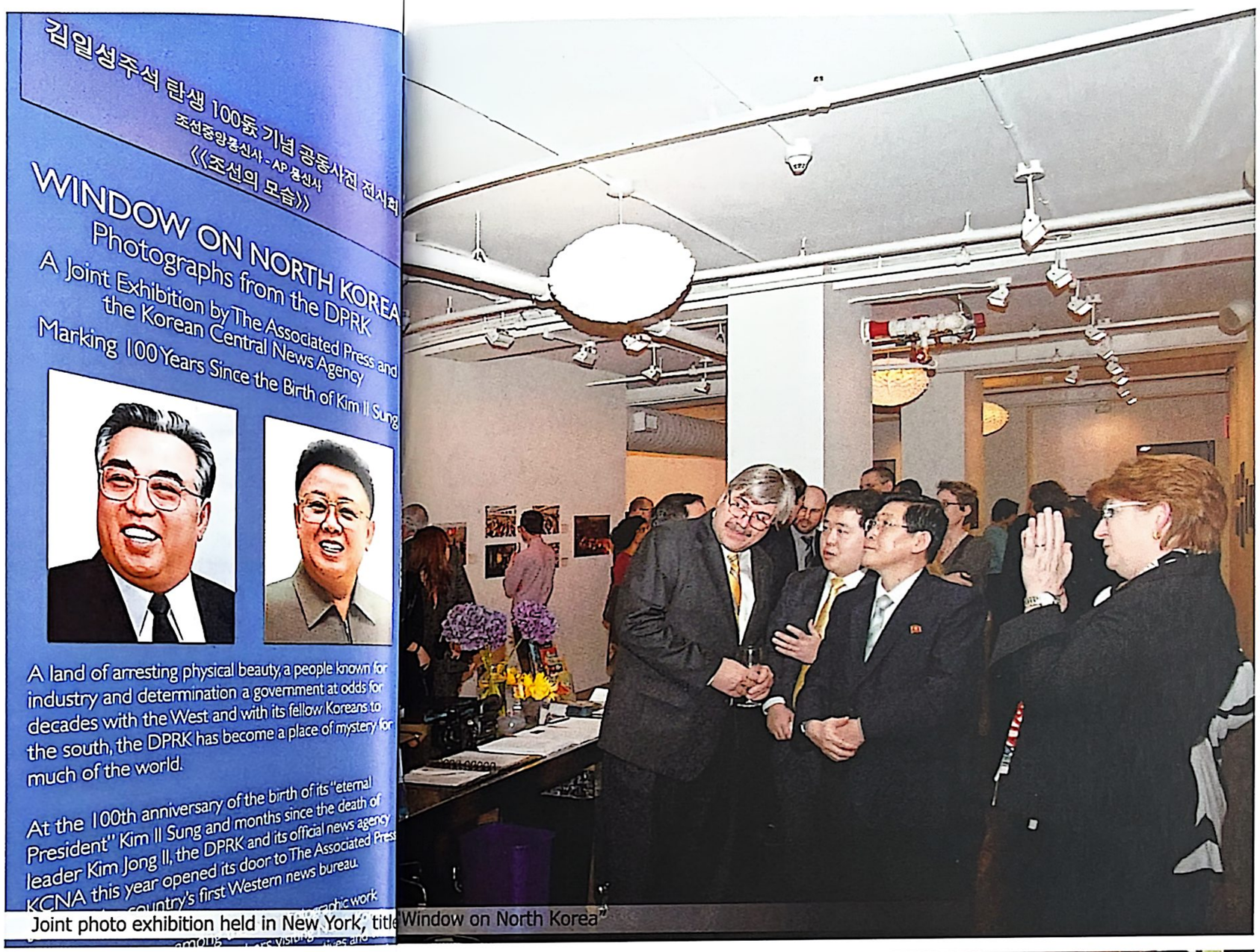
A meeting of the General Association of Korean Nationals in China

Foreign Relations

Independence, peace and friendship are the ideals of the DPRK's foreign policy. The DPRK regards it as a consistent and steadfast principle to firmly maintain independence, develop friendly and cooperative relations with different countries in the world which respect its sovereignty, and wage a dynamic struggle to oppose war and defend peace and security of the world.

These ideals are universal, international concepts which everyone can accept and embody. Under the banner of independence, peace and friendship, the government of the DPRK is making efforts to achieve common development while developing relations and cooperation with all the countries and nations which respect its sovereignty, do not interfere in its internal affairs and treat it on an equal footing.

The DPRK maintains diplomatic relations with over 160 countries, has acceded to over 210 inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations such as the UN and Non-Aligned Movement, and takes part in the activities of their major organs including their regular meetings (general meetings), executive committees, councils and secretariats.


WINDOW ON NORTH KOREA
Photographs from the DPRK
A Joint Exhibition by The Associated Press and the Korean Central News Agency
Marking 100 Years Since the Birth of Kim Il Sung
A land of arresting physical beauty, a people known for industry and determination a government at odds for decades with the West and with its fellow Koreans to the south, the DPRK has become a place of mystery for much of the world.
At the 100th anniversary of the birth of its "eternal President" Kim Il Sung and months since the death of leader Kim Jong Il, the DPRK and its official news agency KCNA this year opened its door to The Associated Press country's first Western news bureau.

Joint photo exhibition held in New York, titled "Window on North Korea"

From March 15 to mid-April Juche 101 (2012) a photo exhibition, titled "Window on North Korea", was held in New York under the joint auspices of the Korean Central News Agency and AP Press.

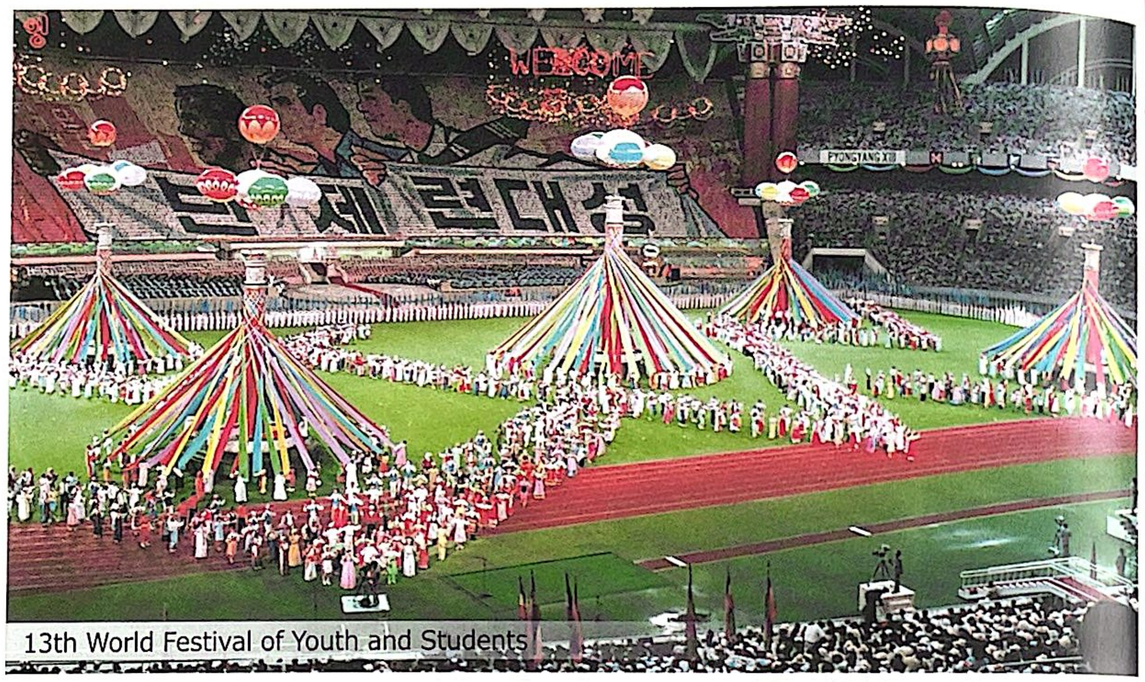
World Congress on the Juche Idea

From April 12 to 13, Juche 101 (2012) the followers of the Juche idea in the five continents of the world gathered in Pyongyang, and held the World Congress on the Juche Idea on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung. The congress declared that the Juche idea is the eternal banner for the realization of the cause of independence of humankind.

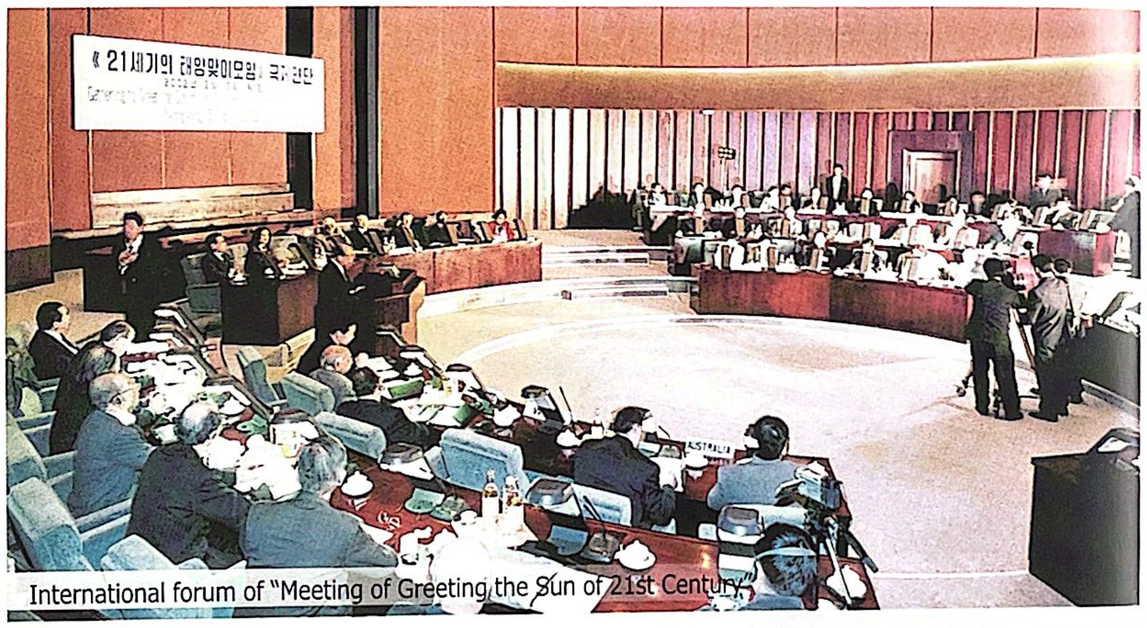
Delegations and delegates from over 60 countries attended the congress.

The congress adopted the Pyongyang Declaration of the World Congress on the Juche Idea.

World Congress on the Juche Idea



13th World Festival of Youth and Students



International forum of "Meeting of Greeting the Sun of 21st Century"

International Academic Symposium held in Kim Il Sung University

Kimilsungia

Kimilsungia is the flower named after the august name of President Kim Il Sung by Sukarno, the former first Indonesian President, reflecting the boundless reverence of all the people in April Juche 54 (1965).

Kimjongilia

Kimjongilia is the flower named after the august name of leader Kim Jong Il by Kamo Mototeru, a Japanese horticulturist in February Juche 77 (1988), reflecting the boundless reverence and confidence of progressives of the world as well as his.

Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

The Economy

Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism

The DPRK holds fast to the principle of self-reliance in defence. It relies on the all-people, nationwide defence system with the Korean People's Army as its backbone that is a reliable guardian of the security of the people-centred socialist system and the gains of the revolution. The defence system aims at mobilizing all the people and the total national potentialities to defeat imperialist aggression forces. It consists basically of standing regular armed forces, paramilitary civilian groups and fortified defence installations.

The country keeps the KPA, its regular armed forces, and the civilian forces of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Red Young Guards, and impregnable fortifications have been set up all across the land, both at the front and the rear and along the coast and in the inland areas in keeping with the requirements of modern warfare.

The DPRK's defence system rests on the single-hearted unity of all the entire people behind the leader and the powerful self-supporting national economy.

The mission of the armed forces is to safeguard the interests of the working people, protect the socialist system and revolutionary gains against foreign aggressions, and secure the freedom, independence and peace of the country.

With a view to strengthening defence capabilities the state makes every effort to implement the self-defensive military line whose main purport is to train the whole army into a cadre army, modernize the whole army, arm all the people and turn the whole land into a fortress while promoting the political and ideological training of the soldiers and people preferentially. It also makes sure that rigid discipline is maintained in the army and that the traditional traits of unity between officers and men and unity between the soldiers and the civilians are fully carried on.

Fatherland Liberation War

On June 25, Juche 39 (1950), the US started the Korean war in pursuit of its ambition to occupy the whole of Korea.

President Kim Il Sung led the Fatherland Liberation War to victory with outstanding strategy, tactics and warfares.

The KPA sprang to launch counterattacks on all fronts, and liberated the south Korean capital of Seoul three days after the war started.

Flurried at this, the US hurled huge forces of its three services and troops of its satellite countries into the war.

The KPA units were never daunted. Advancing southward without interruption, they sieged Taejon, the so-called temporary "capital" of south Korea, and annihilated the US 24th Division and other combat groups. In a little over a month they liberated more than 90% of the southern half of Korea and more than 92% of its population, pressing the enemy into a narrow area south of the Raktong River.

In mid-September Juche 39 (1950), the US mobilized a huge force of US troops of three services in the Pacific, part of the Mediterranean Fleet, ground forces of the US proper and troops from 15 of its satellite countries to attempt a "general offensive" along the Raktong River line while launching a landing operation in Inchon. The KPA units that had advanced to the Raktong River line made a temporary, strategic retreat. The US troops perpetrated massacres of Koreans in the areas under their temporary occupation, which were beyond human imagination, destroying and pillaging industrial and cultural wealth.

Towards the end of October, the KPA units launched again a counterattack along with the Chinese People's Volunteers and pushed back the enemy south of the Chongchon River, thwarting MacArthur's "Christmas General Offensive".

By the end of December the People's Army completely restored the whole of the northern half of the Korean peninsula. From June Juche 40 (1951) the front line was fixed along the 38th Parallel.

Following the dismissal of MacArthur, Ridgeway took his place as commander of the "UN Forces". Behind the scene of the talks for ceasefire negotiation, he launched the large-scale "summer and autumn offensives". He made an offensive in the eastern front, combining the attack by ground forces with the landing operation of a marine corps, and even argued for the use of A-bombs to make threats.

The KPA fought fierce battles on Height 1211 to foil the attempt of the enemy. The defenders, despite the enemy's daily showering of 30 000–40 000 shells and bombs, dealt a massive lethal blow at the enemy. The enemy called Height 1211 "Heartbreak Ridge" and named the ravine bellow the height "Punch Bowl".

Ridgeway was also dismissed, and Eisenhower, who took office as US President in succession to Truman, launched a "new offensive" in early Juche 42 (1953), which also ended up in a failure.

During the three-year war, the KPA killed, wounded and captured a total of 1 567 128 enemy effectives including 405 498 US troops; shot down, destroyed and captured 12 224 aircraft; sank, destroyed and captured 564 warships and vessels of various types including the heavy cruiser *Baltimore*; destroyed and captured 3 255 tanks and armored vehicles, 13 350 automobiles, 7 695 guns of various types, and 925 152 small arms.

On July 27, Juche 42 (1953), the US signed the ceasefire agreement at last, kneeling down before the Korean people. Mark Clark, the then Commander-in-Chief of the "UN Forces", confessed: "... I gained the unenviable distinction of being the first United States army commander in history to sign an armistice agreement without victory."

In Pyongyang fireworks soared into the sky and a magnificent military parade took place in celebration of the victorious war.

The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum was erected on the Pothong River in Pyongyang as the grand monument of the WPK era.

US Armed Spy Ship *Pueblo* Captured

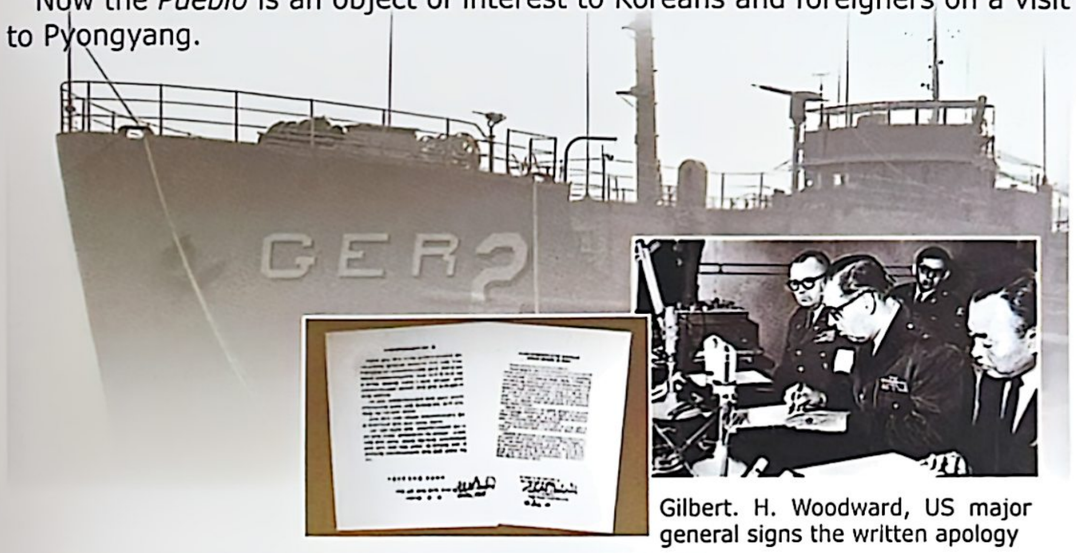
On January 23, Juche 57 (1968), the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* was captured by KPA navy soldiers, conducting espionage acts after its illegal intrusion into the territorial waters of the DPRK in the East Sea of Korea. The US made absurd arguments that the ship had been captured in the high sea, and threatened to "retaliate", bringing the situation to the brink of war. Huge American forces, including the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Enterprise*, gathered in Korea's neighbouring waters.

At this juncture President Kim Il Sung pronounced a resolute stand of the WPK and the DPRK Government against the US attempts for a new war, and gave a serious warning, saying, "We do not want war, but we are not afraid of it. Our people and People's Army will retaliate for the 'retaliation' of the US imperialists, return all-out war for all-out war."

Leader Kim Jong Il set forth an operations plan to actively frustrate the enemy moves for "retaliation", urging they should fight it out with the US imperialists if they chose to ignite a war in Korea recklessly.

The US, daunted by the tough measure, made an apology for its act of aggression. Consequently the *Pueblo* crew were expelled from the DPRK, but their spy ship remained the trophy of the Korean people.

Now the *Pueblo* is an object of interest to Koreans and foreigners on a visit to Pyongyang.



Gilbert. H. Woodward, US major general signs the written apology

Military Hardware Exhibition House of the KPA

The Military Hardware Exhibition House of the KPA was opened on the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung. It is an epitome of the precious legacy of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who devoted their all to the buildup of the military power, holding aloft the banner of Songun in order to prevent the repetition of the history of national ruin in which the country had fallen into the hand of the Japanese imperialists owing to the lack of even firelocks in the early 20th century.

It has on display different kinds of weapons and combat equipment ranging from small arms, artillery, tanks, armoured vehicles, warships, aircraft and strategic rockets produced at munitions factories in the country.

The house is an intensive showcase for the historical development of modern-day Korea in national defence and for its military capabilities.

Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

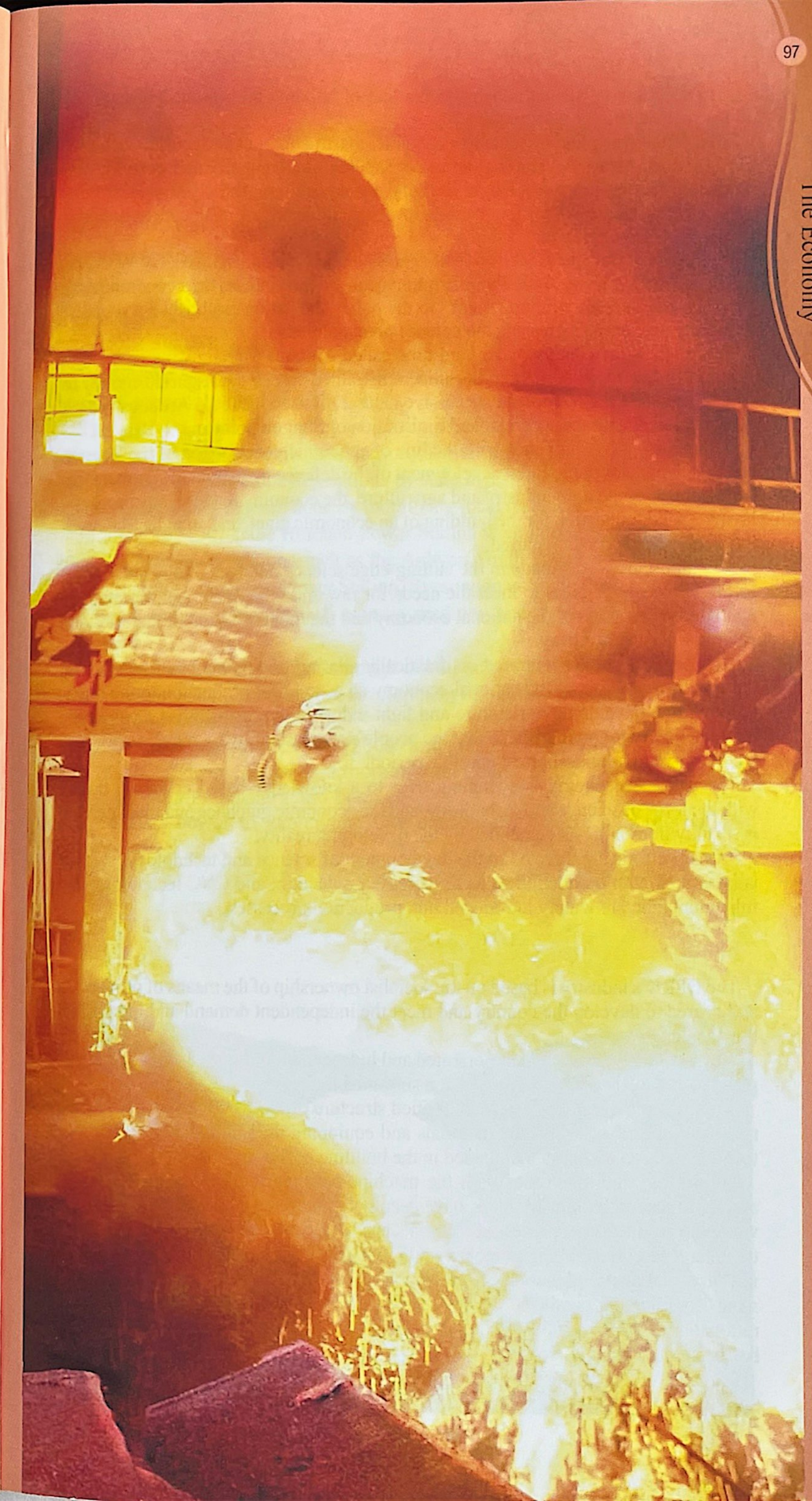
The Economy

Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism



The DPRK consistently adheres to the line of building an independent national economy in economic construction.

True to the basic line of socialist economic construction put forward in Juche 42 (1953) which means developing the heavy industry preferentially and ensuring the simultaneous development of light industry and agriculture, the country laid rock-firm material and technical foundations for the building of an independent national economy in a short period.

In the 1960s when the US's moves of aggression became undisguised, the Workers' Party of Korea advanced the line of simultaneously carrying on the economic construction and defence buildup. Thanks to the policy the nation established a socialist industrial state while increasing the defence potentialities.

In the 1990s the country had a hard time called Arduous March owing to the dissolution of the socialist market, the imperialist allied forces' undisguised moves to isolate and stifle the nation and successive natural disasters. But the Arduous March was concluded with the successful administration of Songun politics.

In the 2000s, in compliance with the line of economic construction of the Songun era, which pursues preferential development of the defence industry and simultaneous development of the light industry and agriculture, the economy made steady progress, laying a solid foundation for the building of an economic giant, and an industrial revolution of the new century started.

A rapid progress was made in the cutting-edge science and technology and the effort to tap local resources to meet the needs for raw and other materials was stepped up in different sectors of the national economy and the modernization of factories and enterprises made headway.

Today efforts are concentrated on drastically shoring up the vanguard sectors and basic industry sectors of the national economy so as to boost production to the maximum and on developing agriculture and light industry, the major thrust areas in the building of an economic giant so that the people's standard of living may be stabilized and improved within a shortest possible period.

The national economy is switching over to a knowledge-based economy driven with the force of science and technology, and the economic guidance and management is steadily improving as demanded by the developing reality.

Primary efforts are directed to the development of science and technology; science is integrated with production so as to increase production; and CNC technology and full automation are widely introduced into production processes.

Industry

The DPRK's industry is based on the socialist ownership of the means of production and geared to develop the country and meet the independent demand and interests of the people.

The socialist industry, a Juche-oriented and independent industry, is developing in a planned and well-balanced way and at a sustained high rate.

The principle of establishing a diversified structure of industrial production, laying reliable domestic bases of raw materials and equipping the industry with up-to-date technology is consistently maintained in the building of the socialist industry.

Solid heavy industry bases with the machine-building industry as the backbone and up-to-date light industry bases have been built and renovated along modern lines while the production of processed materials has been developed rapidly using domestic natural resources. The state policy of giving priority to the development of heavy industry, making combination of renovation and construction in industrial development, coordinating paralleled development of central and local industries, making a rational distribution of industries and making the most of the existing production bases has been implemented.

In recent years, the country has followed the line of economic construction of the Songun era in real earnest in implementing the industrial policy.

Heavy Industry

The DPRK's policy regarding construction of heavy industry is to develop an independent and modern heavy industry.

What is important here is to preferentially develop heavy industry and make it serve the development of light industry and rural economy faithfully. The point in developing heavy industry is to equip all its manufacturers with modern technology and promote a diversified growth with the use of domestic natural resources and raw materials.

Electric Power Industry

Precedence is given to the electric power industry, the main motive power of the national economy, ahead of other sectors.

The state maintains the policy of giving precedence to construction of hydroelectric power stations while carrying on thermal power projects proportionately, and building large-sized power stations by state investments along with small- and medium-sized ones that are done by mobilizing local resources.

In Juche 101 (2012) the Huichon Power Station went into operation. Large-scale hydroelectric power stations such as the Anbyon Youth Power Station, Nyongwon Power Station, Orangchon Power Station, Ryesonggnag Youth Power Station No. 1, and Samsu Power Station as well as many medium- and small-sized power stations were built.

Considering electricity a breakthrough in building an economic giant, the DPRK is now dynamically promoting the development of light water reactor.

Huichon Power Station

The project began in Juche 98 (2009) and finished in April Juche 101 (2012). The Huichon Power Station is a monumental edifice of the Songun era, completed by the KPA soldiers and people.

It supplies power to Pyongyang City and different sectors of the national economy.

Ryongnim Dam of the Huichon Power Station No. 1

Mining Industry

The mining industry, the first process of the national economy, is definitely kept ahead of the processing industry.

The state makes sure that precedence is given to geological prospecting and that technical revolution and scientific research work are pushed ahead energetically.

Efforts are concentrated on mines that have plenty of deposits and are in favourable conditions for mining. New mines are developed extensively from a perspective point of view. Precedence is given to construction of pits, tunnelling and earth-removing ahead of cutting jobs. Pits are made permanent with concrete, which benefits increased output.

With the development of science and technology production processes are improving steadily.

Korea is quite rich in coal deposits. Major collieries turn out an enormous amount of coal. Many promising coal fields are developed in the northern and central parts of the country and inland areas.

The Musan Mining Complex, a gigantic open mine producing iron ore, has mechanized and modernized all the processes of mining, hauling and dressing.

High-grade iron ore is produced in South Hamgyong Province, North Phyongan Province, South Hwanghae Province, South Phyongan Province and the west coast area of Korea.

Having developed non-ferrous metal mines in several districts, the Komdok Mining Complex is increasing the production.

High-quality graphite and rare-earth minerals which are in huge deposits in the country are developed and utilized.

In the Tanchon area of South Hamgyong Province is a magnesite mine with more than half the global deposits.

The March 5 Youth Mine and other modern non-ferrous metal mines are found in Ryanggang Province, Jagang Province and other area with promising deposits.

The Anbyon Silicon-Potash Fertilizer Plant and phosphatic fertilizer plants, built on a modern footing, produce and supply fertilizers using domestic resources.

Mines have laid large-sized, long-distance conveyor belts and cable ways which bear the lion's share in transport.

The solid foundation and development of the mining industry enable it to meet the domestic demands for various minerals and strengthen the Juche character and independence of the national industry.

Musan Mining Complex

In November Juche 99 (2010), a newly-laid, large-sized cone crushers began their operation and Dressing Plant No. 2's technical reconstruction project was successfully finished in a year. The development and introduction of advanced working methods and cutting-edge technology resulted in the modernization of the operation of both the large-sized cone crusher and earth-removing conveyors.

A stope of the Musan Mining Complex

A Promising, Youthful Mine

The Ryongchon Mine under the General Bureau of the Tanchon Area Mining Industry has spruced itself up as befitting a youthful mine. Located at a high altitude, it is rich in deposits and has favourable mining conditions.

The newly-built dressing plant is well furnished, consisting of the processes of crushing, grinding and flotation.

Precedence is given to the prospecting and expansion of the mining capacity in boosting the ore production. Dozens of modern dwelling houses sprang up in the mine area.

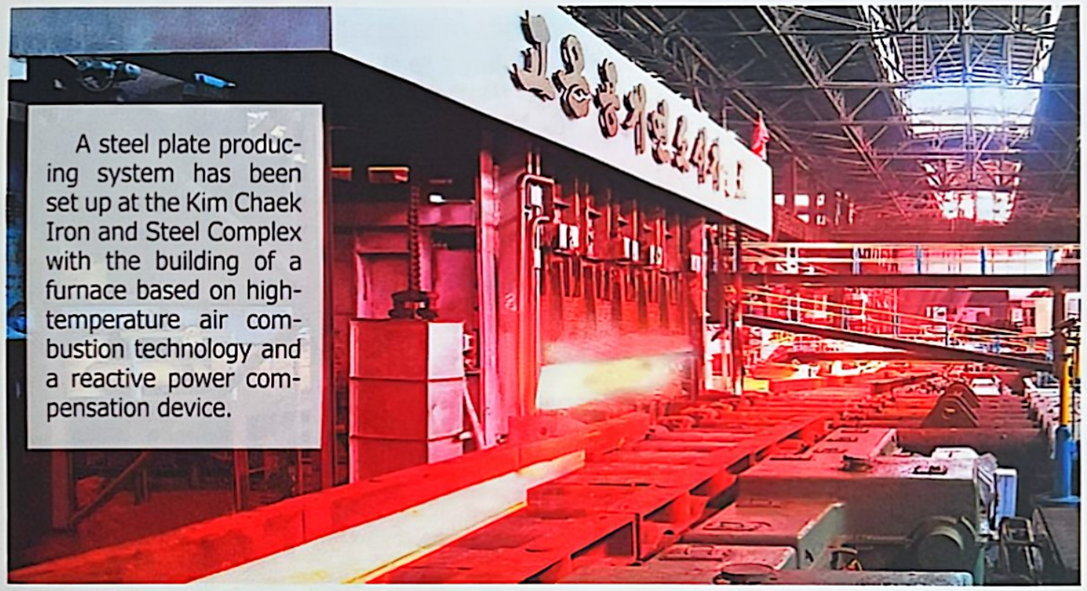
Metal Industry

The metal industry is developing on an independent and modern foundation.

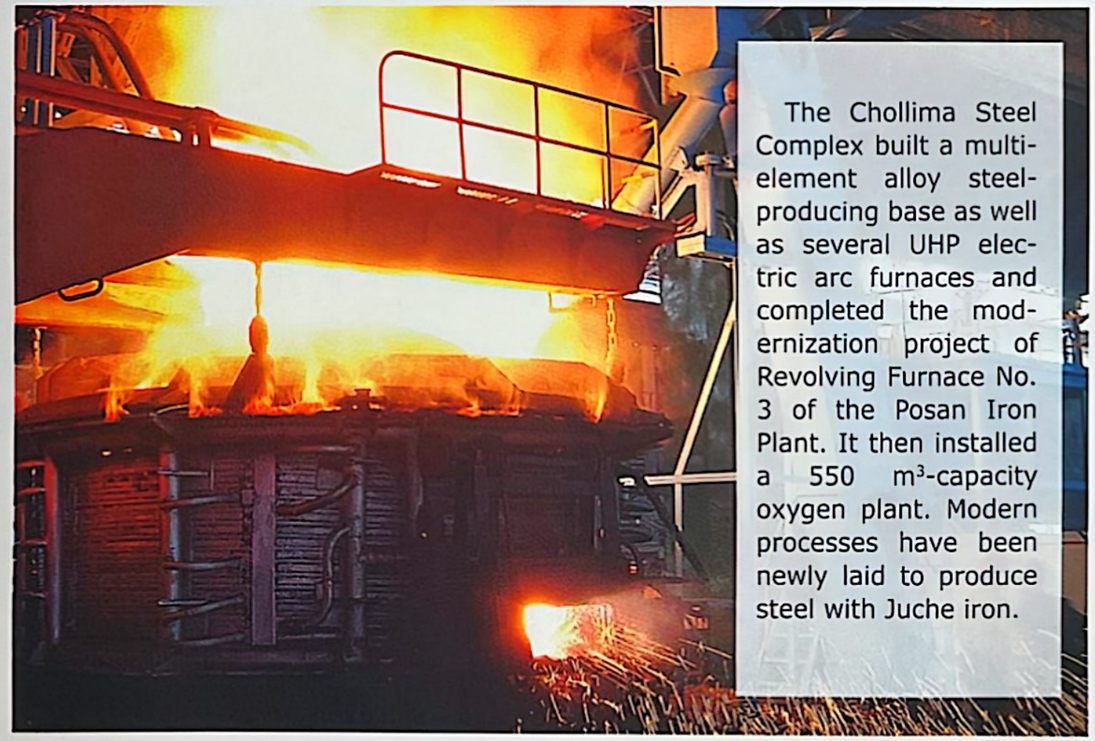
The completion of the structural formation of the metal industry and the steadily increasing rate of domestic raw materials and fuels used in iron- and steel-making industry are strengthening the independence of the industry.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the Chollima Steel Complex and the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex have been modernized and equipped with up-to-date technology and the CNC technology is actively introduced to the equipment.

The Juche-based iron production system is improving; an alloy steel-producing base is under construction and the structure of the metal industry is being renewed.



A steel plate producing system has been set up at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex with the building of a furnace based on high-temperature air combustion technology and a reactive power compensation device.



The Chollima Steel Complex built a multi-element alloy steel-producing base as well as several UHP electric arc furnaces and completed the modernization project of Revolving Furnace No. 3 of the Posan Iron Plant. It then installed a 550 m^3-capacity oxygen plant. Modern processes have been newly laid to produce steel with Juche iron.

Machine Industry

The DPRK's machine industry has made sustained development, regarded as the backbone of the heavy industry.

Steady efforts have been made to apply modern technology into the heavy industry equipment such as machine tools, precision machines, extracting machines and power-generating equipment, the light industry equipment including the spinning and weaving machinery and food-processing equipment and all kinds of vehicles of transport such as trucks and ships.

Today the nation's machine industry produces complete sets of equipment of modern factories, large-sized machines including 10 000-ton press, super-pressure presses and oxygen plants and automatic machines—all by itself.

The rate of stamp forging and pressing methods has risen in the production of machinery, and innovations have taken place in the fields of casting, welding and tool and insulator manufacture; robots and the flexible manufacturing system are in wide use.

Efforts have been channeled into development of machine tools to break through the cutting edge in the machine industry.

In the 1980s the DPRK developed a NC machine tool, the progenitor of CNC machines, and in the 1990s a CNC four-axis electric-wire discharge machine.

Recently a nine-axis turning centre of a new type has been developed and a process has gone online to produce such machines in a serial way. An excellent parent machine for processing the main body of machine tools has been made.

With the modernization of tool factories, PVC tools and various kinds of latest tools are produced, energizing the introduction of CNC technology. Highly efficient compressors and geothermal facilities are produced.

Huichon Ryonha General Machine Factory

Unsan Tool Factory

Chemical Industry

The chemical industry is developing into an independent, modern and all-round industry.

Inorganic and organic chemical industries are developed in a well-balanced way; all sectors of modern chemical industry have been arranged.

The DPRK's chemical industry is structurally based on the use of domestic raw materials.

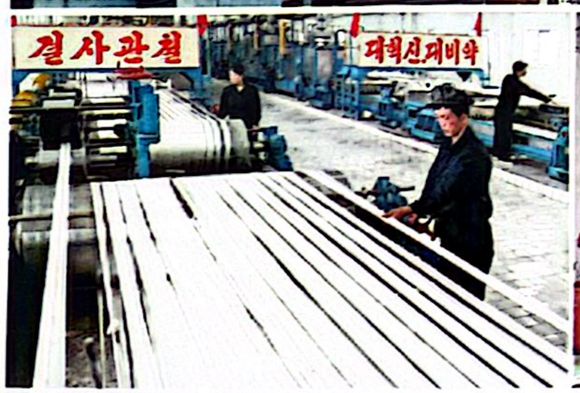
At present it is oriented towards solution of the problems of raw materials, fuel and food shortage in keeping with the global trend of economic development.

Coal is used not only as one of energy resources but also as raw material of the chemical industry.

Now the chemical industry concentrates on the production of vinalon and nitrogenous fertilizer while activating production of biological fertilizer and high concentration composite fertilizer.

Efforts are also channeled into preventing contamination and air pollution.

February 8 Vinalon Complex



Hungnam Fertilizer Complex

Building Materials Industry

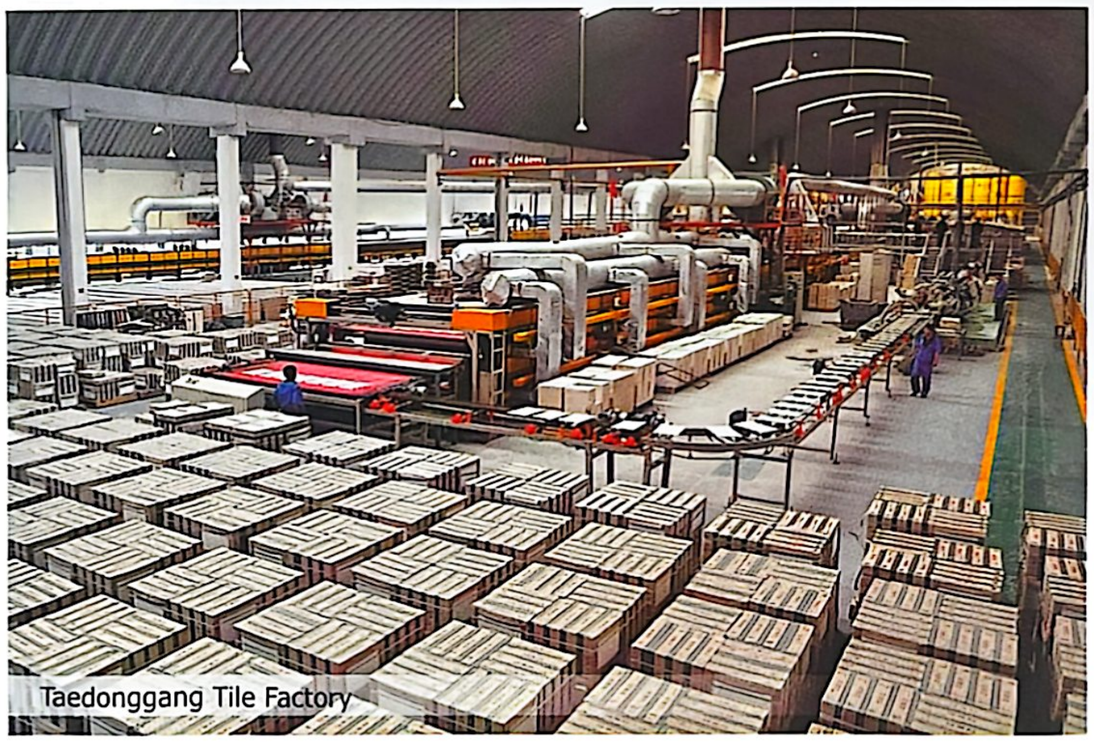
The independent, modern building materials industry has struck roots and the production of building materials has increased in step with capital construction.

The existing building materials plants are in rational operation while new ones are under construction proportionately. Large-scale national enterprises and small-and medium-sized local factories are developing in a balanced way. Prefabrication is done on an industrial basis.

Plants with great capacities including the Sunchon Cement Complex and the Sangwon Cement Complex have been built up, which satisfactorily supply cement to construction projects across the country. Meanwhile, the industries of metal building materials, chemical building materials, plastics building materials, building stones, fittings, glass, prefabrication, finishing materials and ceramic materials have been upgraded to fully meet the growing demands.

More recently, the Aeguk Stone Factory, which relies on a rich stock of natural resources, has been erected, and a large-scale tile factory has expanded its capacity, thus playing a big role in sprucing up buildings as required by the times and desired by the people.

Sangwon Cement Complex


Taedonggang Tile Factory

Light Industry

The DPRK, setting light industry as the major area in the building of an economic power and improvement of the people's living standards, is bent on its development.

With the simultaneous development of central and local industries, up-to-date light industry factories have been built up in all parts of the country in a short span of time. With the use of domestic raw materials, the items of consumer goods have increased while their costs lowered.

The production of seasonings and essential consumer goods is boosted in line with light industry's level of development and the people's demands and their quality is improved. Further, functional articles are developed as the capacity of development of new products rises. The modernization of production facilities and processes and the scientification of business activities are stepped up and a leap is made in introducing CNC and full automation technologies into production lines. A processing trade with foreign countries is also developed.

A large number of updated light industry mills and local industry factories in operation all over the country are playing a great part in improving the people's living standards. Among them are the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, Sinuiju Textile Mill, Ryuwon Shoe Factory, Pyongyang Hosiery Factory, Pyongyang Mechanical Pencil Factory, Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, Hamhung Disabled Soldiers' Plastic Necessaries Factory, Changsong Foodstuff Factory.

Textile

Recently the terylene rayon workshop has gone into operation at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, laying the solid foundation for mass-production of cloth. And at the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory, a modern women's hosiery workshop has been newly built and the men's hosiery workshop renovated. At the Sinuiju Textile Mill, a knitting yarn workshop has been erected in less than one year. The Nyongbyon Silk Mill has doubled its silk goods production by inventing a new method of producing glossy ramie cloth and introducing the process of producing figured satin with a new raw material. All the textile mills in the country have introduced the techniques by which to produce cloth with flexible shaft looms.

Pakchon Silk Mill

Pyongyang Hosiery Factory

Foodstuff

The Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory has undergone renovation with the reconstruction of its cake, flour and yeast workshops, construction of a twist workshop and an integrated automation room, and introduction of CNC technology and sterilization in the large continuous production processes. The confectionery workshop of the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory is equipped on the latest lines in all its production processes from the feeding of raw materials to the goods packaging. Foodstuff production centres and speciality-processing bases are everywhere—the Ryongsong and Sonhung Foodstuff Factories, Susongchon General Foodstuff and Kangso Mineral Water Factories among the rest. Even the Changsong Foodstuff Factory, a small local outfit, is equipped with the modern production process of supercritical extraction.

Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory

Taedonggang General Fruit Processing Factory

Sonhung Foodstuff Factory

The public service sector caters to the people's convenience and interests as best as possible by giving services in a creative, diversified way.

Public catering and welfare service facilities are arranged for the best convenience of the population. The commercial, public catering and welfare service networks are refurbished along up-to-date lines.

In Pyongyang the modern Changjon Street shopping centre, Pothonggang Shop and Children's Department Store have been newly built and the Kwangbok Area Supermarket, Changgwang Health Complex, Department Store No. 1, Restaurant Street, Underground Shop, Okryu and Chongnyu Restaurants have been remodeled. There is a supplementary commodity supply channel which covers the district (city and county) direct sale shops and housewives' welfare service bases. The commercial service facilities are renovated in the latest cultured fashion and rational management and business strategies are applied in all service work.

Okryu Restaurant

Pyongyang Children's Department Store

Restaurant boat *Taedonggang*

Agriculture

Along with industry, agriculture, now free from the ages-old backwardness, constitutes the main sector of the national economy. The agrarian reform after liberation and the socialist agricultural cooperativization after the war brought about a rapid development of agriculture on the basis of the socialist ownership of production means. The Theses on Socialist Rural Question of Our Country published by President Kim Il Sung is the programme for socialist rural construction which throws full scientific light on the way of solution to the socialist rural question. Korea's countryside has turned into a cultured socialist farm area with the irrigation, electrification, mechanization and chemicalization of agriculture vigorously promoted.

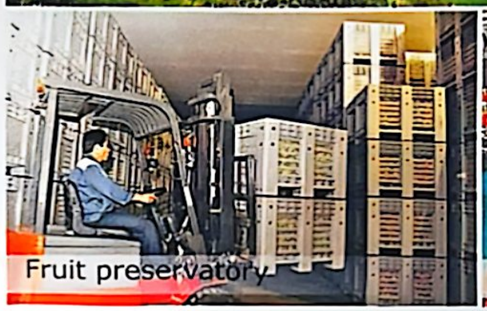
Recent years witnessed many successes in agricultural production and development of agricultural science and technology. Crops and their varieties are properly distributed on the principle of the right crop on the right soil and in the right time and their manuring and cultivation are done in a scientific and technical way. Choice seeds of high-yielding crops are produced in plenty and large-scale land rezoning projects and irrigation of farmland are nearing completion. Potato farming and double-cropping are widely developed. All the agricultural processes are industrialized, modernized and made scientific in line with the latest achievements of science and technology. Steadily taking great interest in the development of agriculture, the state is increasing investments in agriculture. All agricultural sectors including crop-growing, stock-breeding, fruit culture and sericulture are steadily developing.

A Leading Comprehensive Fruit Production Base

The Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm covers an area of over 1 000 hectares, with a preservatory for storing thousands of tons of fruit, a general fruit processing plant producing fruit juices, jams and cosmetics, a dried fruit chip mill, an organic compound fertilizer plant, a pig farm, a tortoise farm and stalls selling apples and tortoises.

A cyclic production system has been established in fruit culture, stockbreeding and fish farming. There are immense orchards in Kosan, Kwail, Pukcong and Toksong Counties.

Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm


Fruit preservatory

Processed fruit products

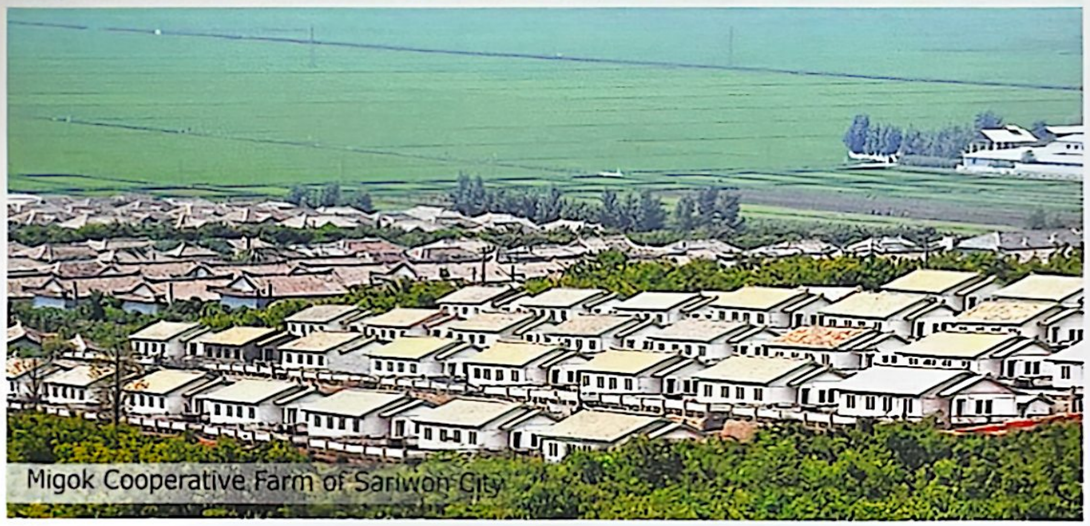
Socialist Countryside Altered beyond Recognition

The land-rezoning plan formed by Kim Jong Il on his on-site guidance tour to Taebaek-ri, Changdo County, Kangwon Province in Juche 87 (1998), heralded a new history of the socialist countryside, spreading from these to other areas of Kangwon Province and, farther, to North Phyongan, South Hwanghae, South Phyongan Provinces, Pyongyang and Nampho Cities. The Kaechon-Lake Thaesong, Paengma-Cholsan and Miru Plain waterways (gravitational ones) supply life-giving water to the crop fields on the west coast of Korea.

The first to profit by solar energy are agricultural workers dwelling in the new-built three- or four-roomed houses roofed with coloured tiles of Korean style.

Paengma-Cholsan waterway

Taehongdan County Combined Farm


Migok Cooperative Farm of Sariwon City

Fishing Industry

Great efforts have been made to build the fishing industry along comprehensive and up-to-date lines in accordance with the line of making it Juche-oriented, modern and scientific. The inshore, deep-sea and small-scale fisheries have been developed simultaneously.

The fishing, processing, ship-building, and repairing bases have been solidly built and modernized. Fishing, inshore fish farming and shellfish culture are developing on a scientific basis. Coastal breeding of sturgeon and rainbow trout bas been successful. The production of superior breeds of fish and their feed is proceeding on scientific lines in keeping with the trend of development in modern fish-breeding science, and the scientific management and intensification of fish farming are realized with the establishment of fish-breeding system. Fish farms are built everywhere and freshwater fish resources are increasing in rivers and lakes. Catfish, globefish, tortoise and salmon are raised in large quantities.

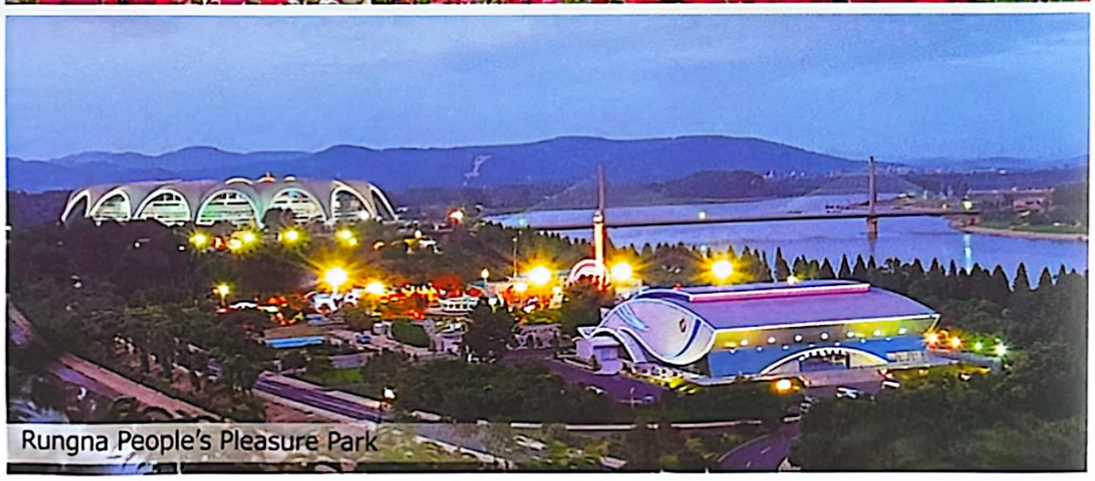
Ryongjong Fish Farm

Construction

What is fundamental in capital construction in Korea is concentration on modern fashion and higher quality of building. Construction by specialized builders is properly combined with that by the masses. The sequence and procedures of construction are correctly decided, according to the relative importance in building, and manpower, equipment and materials are used in a concentrated way. Capital construction, new construction, repair, and reconstruction are rationally combined. In conformity to the latest achievements of science and technology, construction is executed in a scientific and modern fashion and the production of building equipments, tools and building materials is further expanded and developed. To be true to the socialist principle and the people's interests remains an immutable rule in construction. Modern factories, enterprises, dwelling houses and monumental structures are going up to step up the building of a thriving socialist nation.

Ryongsong Machine Complex

Apartment Houses in Changjon Street



Rungna People's Pleasure Park

Transport and Communications

The ever-increasing needs for transport are satisfactorily met by developing railway, land and water transports and rationally organizing concentrated, joint and container transports. The carrying capacity of the railways which constitute the arteries of the country and the front bearer of the national economy is increasing. The electric railway lines are further extended and the production of electric locomotives, heavy-duty freight cars and passenger cars boosted, while the railway network is further improved and railway operations are modernized.

Development of land transport is stepped up while modern large-sized trucks are put into service; transit power is boosted further by organizing transportation work compactly in a scientific way; rapid motor transit is ensured through keeping the road network in perfect order. Since Korea is sea-bound on three sides and has many rivers, water transport is developing as a favorable means of transport. Shipping capacity is raised by building a large number of big modern vessels. Harbours and ports are expanded or newly built and trade ports remodeled modernly. Sea routes are extensively opened up and rivers improved. In addition, efforts are made to develop three-way goods transportation—pipeline, belt-conveyor and cable.

The modernization of communications is well under way. In keeping with the developing global trend and the achievements of modern science and technology, the independent Juche character of communications is further strengthened, their technical equipments improved and their organization and operations are put on a scientific basis. Their inner structure is fit out still better and the forms of service developed to meet the people's growing demand for communications. With the ceaseless improvement of equipments, the promptness and modernization of communications are realized very effectively.

Sinsongchon Station

Pyongyang Metro

Handre Plain changed by land-realignment

Land Management

In order to provide the people with independent and creative living conditions, great efforts are made to transform the land, resources and natural environment. Land and resources are zealously protected and managed and land management is developed in a planned, prospective way. The work of protecting land and environment is carried on through a mass movement as a patriotic work for the everlasting prosperity of the country, and the looks of the country are changing like a socialist fairyland as required by the Songun era.

Taegyedo reclaimed tideland

Foreign Trade

Foreign trade is conducted according to the unitary state trade system and various forms of trade are developed under the well-organized trade management system. Things essential and in great demand are produced domestically and those short or absent or less demanded are imported through foreign trade. The DPRK develops trade with the developing countries under the idea of south-south cooperation and the principle of independence, equality and mutual benefit. Many-sided technical exchanges and economic collaboration are extensively conducted on the principle of mutual benefit, and this not merely with one country or region. Foreign trade is diversified and multilateral and investments from outside are widely encouraged. Local trade together with processing trade, port trade and cooperative trade is also developed.

Recently Wonsan, Mt. Chilbo and other places have been turned into modern tourist zones, and an economic development zone is set up in every province according to its actual conditions and the undertakings to develop it in a unique way are going on briskly.

Tanchon Port Capable of Millions of Tons of Freight Transit

Although the construction project was vast and it faced many technical challenges, the Ministry of Land and Marine Transport of the DPRK finished it in three years. The most baffling snag in the project was to build thousands of metres of breakwaters in the rough sea scores of metres deep. The builders devised a new method of construction and built the strong and solid breakwaters. The construction of Tanchon Port opened broad vistas for shipping the products of magnesia, lead and zinc inexhaustibly buried underground in this area.

15th Pyongyang Spring International Trade Fair

Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

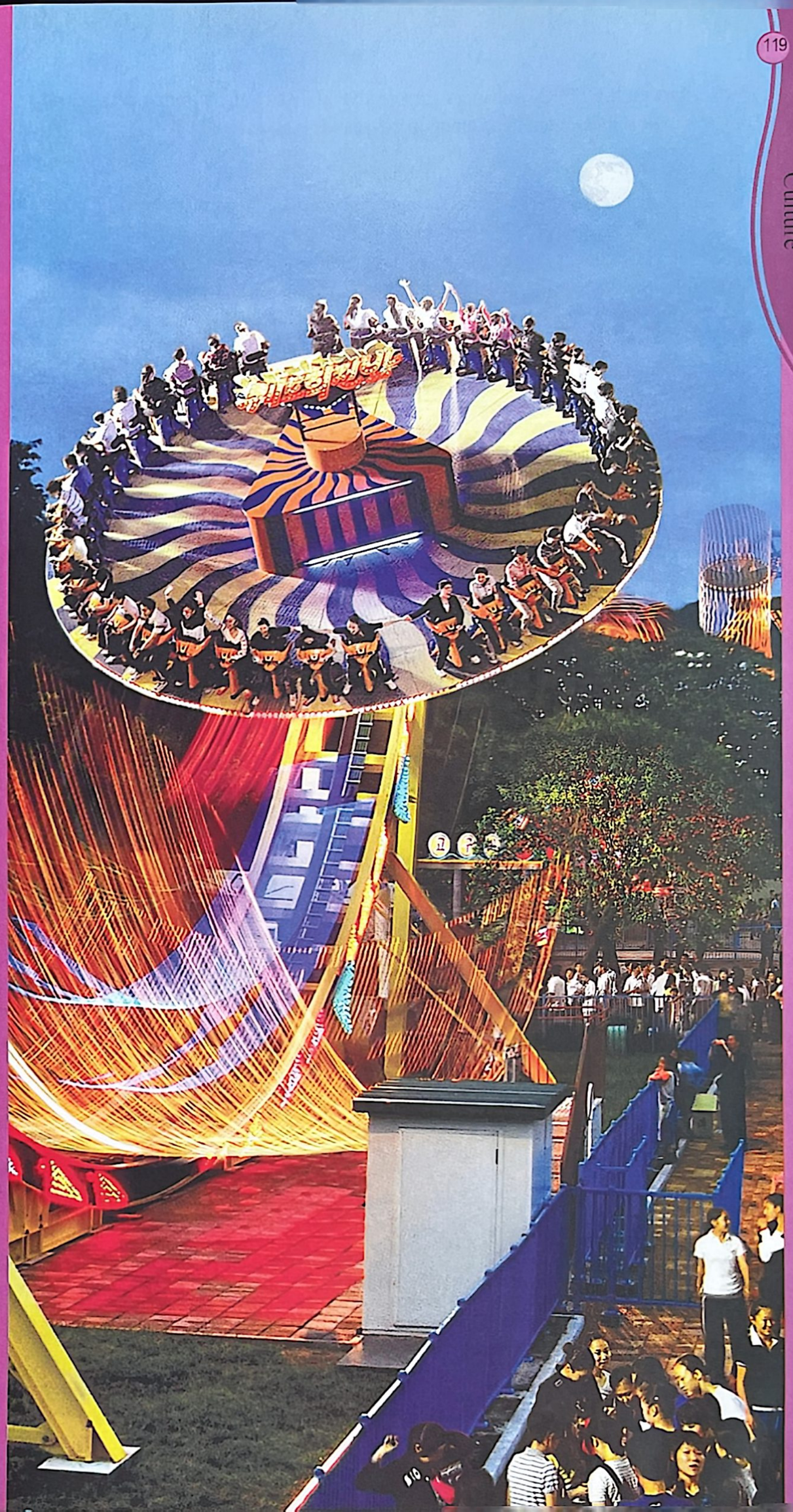
The Economy

Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism



Culture in the DPRK enhances the creative ability of the working people and meets their sound cultural and emotional demand.

Education

Before liberation, there was not a single university in the northern part of Korea.

On October 1, Juche 35 (1946), the first year after liberation, Kim Il Sung University, the first people's university of its kind in Korea's history, was founded.

In December Juche 35 (1946), a democratic educational system was established according to a decision of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea, titled Measures on School Educational System in North Korea.

The educational system consists of pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education.

The DPRK introduced universal primary compulsory education and the universal secondary compulsory education, respectively in Juche 45 (1956) and Juche 47 (1958).

In Juche 61 (1972), universal 11-year compulsory education was introduced.

In September Juche 101 (2012), the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK promulgated a law on the enforcement of universal 12-year compulsory education.

Education at all levels is free. The college and university students receive scholarship from the state.

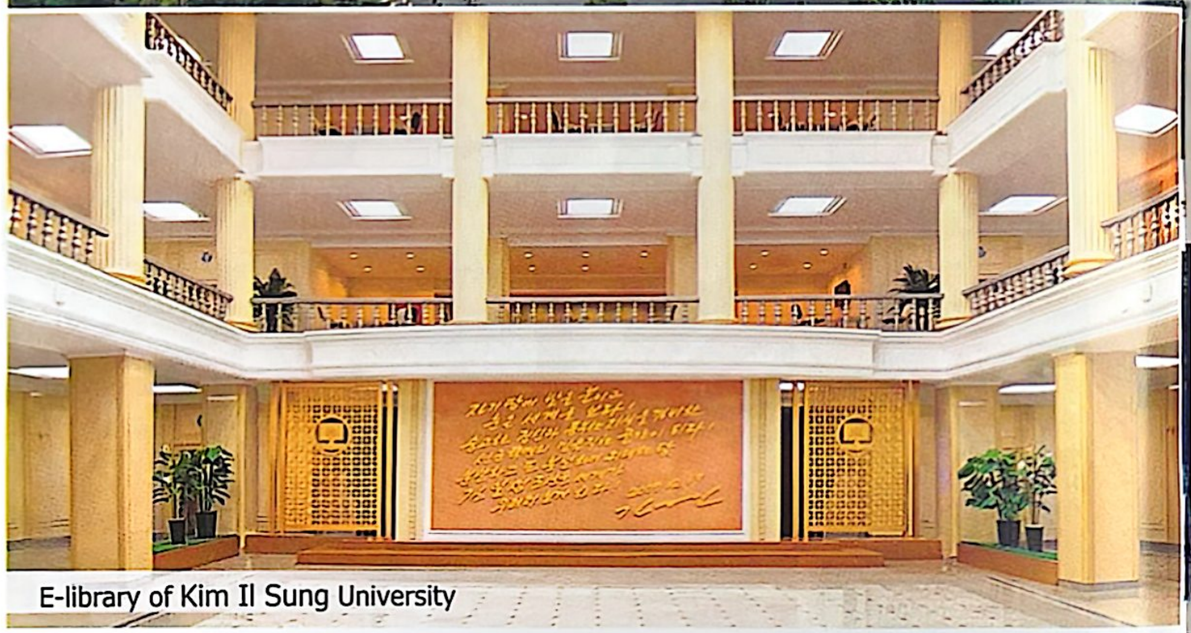
Colleges where workers study at night while working at daytime are seen everywhere. The centres for people's education including the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang are found across the country.

Universal 12-Year Compulsory Education

The universal 12-year compulsory education is offered free in all parts of the country, and covers all children and the youth at the age from 5 to 17.

It consists of one-year pre-school course, five-year primary schooling, three-year junior middle schooling and three-year senior middle schooling.

Kim Il Sung University


E-library of Kim Il Sung University

Grand People's Study House—A People's Palace of Education

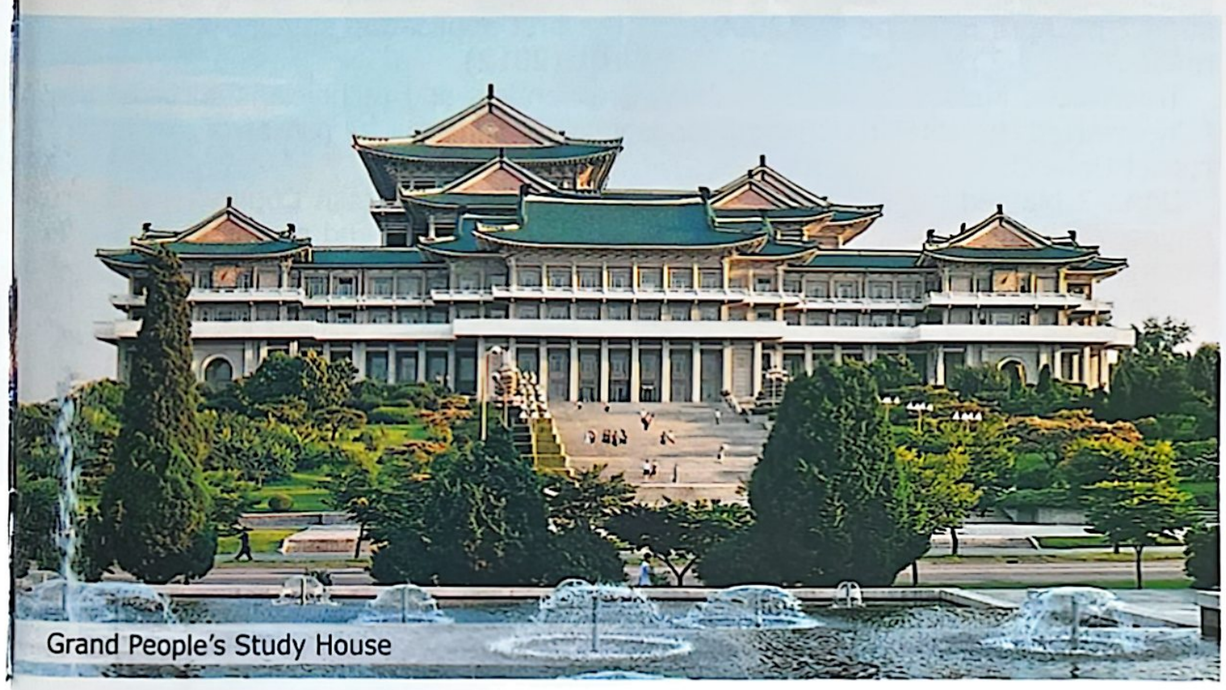
On Namsan Hill in downtown Pyongyang stands the Grand People's Study House, a building with Korean-style hip-saddle roofs.

The interior building has ten floors. The extensive first floor of the building is coated with marble slabs decorated with some 20 kinds of germs.

The library has a housing capacity of tens of millions of volumes of books. It offers lectures on science and technology relevant to the various sectors of national economy and ensures data transfer and services for the provincial study houses and libraries. It often serves as a venue for international scientific research meetings and seminars.

It attracts 10 000 people every day. They include students, workers, farmers, engineers, doctors, teachers and researchers. The lecture rooms are equipped with audio and video devices.

The likes of the people's palace of education are also seen in provinces like North Hwanghae Province.


Grand People's Study House

Science

There are the State Academy of Sciences (a comprehensive body for leading scientific research institutions), the Academy of Social Sciences, the State Science and Technology Committee (a body for giving scientific and technological administrative guidance) and their subordinate units of varied sectors across the country.

Scientific research institutions are provided with every convenience ranging from updated research rooms to laboratories, test-rooms and intermediary pilot plants.

Millions-strong army of intellectuals produced at the state's huge expenditure are ushering in the national prosperity of today and mapping out the plan for tomorrow.

Scientists are breaking through the cutting edge in the modern science and technology branches including the nuclear, space, bioengineering, information, nano and CNC technologies.

Scientific research work is extensively conducted not just in studies but also at production sites. The work for the scientific and technological development in the country also involves such non-experts as workers, farmers, office workers, students and even housewives. The sure guarantee is the universal 12-year compulsory education, study-while-you-work system, the Grand People's Study House, and provincial libraries.

The latest scientific and technological achievements were actively introduced to all sectors of the national economy including the UHP electric arc furnace project at the Chollima Steel Complex and Tanchon Port project.

The nanophotocatalyst production process of the cutting-edge level was established, and innovations and new technological achievements including the establishment of a multi-element simultaneous analyzing process were made.

Development of up-to-the-minute technological products such as the 9-axis machining centre, parent machine for processing the main body of machine tools and AC locomotive equipped with asynchronous vehicular motor and the great advancement in the bioengineering, resulting from close combination of science and technology with production processes, are forcefully propelling the building of an economic power.

A great encouragement is given to the exchange of science and technology with foreign countries.

Thanks to the policy of attaching importance to science and technology as a strategic line in building a thriving country, science and technology are making a rapid progress in the DPRK.

Artificial Earth Satellite

By developing space science and technology in a short span of time, the DPRK succeeded in launching the first test satellite Kwangmyongsong 1 on August 31, Juche 87 (1998), the test communications satellite Kwangmyongsong 2 on April 5, Juche 98 (2009) and the first application satellite Kwangmyongsong 3-2 on December 12, Juche 101 (2012).

True to the instructions of Kim Jong Il, scientists and technicians successfully inserted the satellite Kwangmyongsong 3-2 into orbit by means of carrier rocket Unha-3.

Unha-3 blasted off at the Sohae Launching Site in Cholsan County, North Phyongan Province at nine hours 49 minutes 46 seconds and placed Kwangmyongsong 3-2 into orbit at nine hours 59 minutes 13 seconds, 9 minutes 27 seconds after take-off.

Kwangmyongsong 3-2 is traveling the polar orbit at the orbital gradient of 97.4 degrees: the perigee is 499.7 km and the apogee is 584.18 km. The period is 95 minutes 29 seconds.

The satellite is loaded with the measuring and communications devices, needed for earth survey.

The successful blast-off of Kwangmyongsong 3-2 is the proud fruition of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea attaching importance to science and technology and a landmark event in developing the country's science and technology and economy by fully exercising the country's independent rights to exploit outer space for peaceful purposes.

Success in Nuclear Fusion

In Juche 99 (2010), scientists succeeded in nuclear fusion reaction.

The nuclear fusion technology, so-called "artificial sun" technology, has drawn great interest from the global scientific circles as it ensures production of an ideal, inexhaustible and safe energy with little damage to the environment. The scientists of the country solved a number of scientific and technological problems by their own efforts and at last succeeded in nuclear fusion reaction.

After designing and manufacturing unique thermonuclear device and conducting a basic research, they could develop thermonuclear technology by their own efforts. This success opened a breakthrough in the development of a new energy and a new phase of advancement in the cutting-edge science and technology of the country.

Literature and the Arts

What is essential for literature and the arts of the DPRK is revolutionary, working-class-oriented, and socialist in content and national in form that is loved by people and agreeable to their flavour.

The state encourages creative endeavours by writers and artistes and develops literature and the arts on the mass basis so that broad masses could take part in the literary and artistic activities.

To meet the ever-growing people's demand it has newly built or renovated about 4 000 theatres, cinemas and halls of culture across the country, the People's Theatre, Pyongyang Grand Theatre, Taedongmun Cinema, National Theatre, Moranbong Theatre and Pyongyang Circus.

Many works have been produced in all sectors of literature and the arts—literature, drama, film, opera, music, dance, fine arts and acrobatics. The revolutionary operas *The Sea of Blood* and *The Flower Girl*, dramas *A Mountain Echo* and *We Will Remember Today*, feature films *Star of Korea*, *The Nation and Destiny* and *A Broad Bellflower* and other musical, dance and acrobatic works enjoy high reputation in the world.

The Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang", was conferred the Grand Sun Medal and the Order of Peace by foreign countries and organizations and recorded on the Guinness Book of World Records in August Juche 96 (2007).

Works of fine arts with the Korean painting as the main, including jewel painting, oil painting, sculpture, woodcut, embroidery, pottery, industrial arts and calligraphy enjoy admiration of foreigners as well.

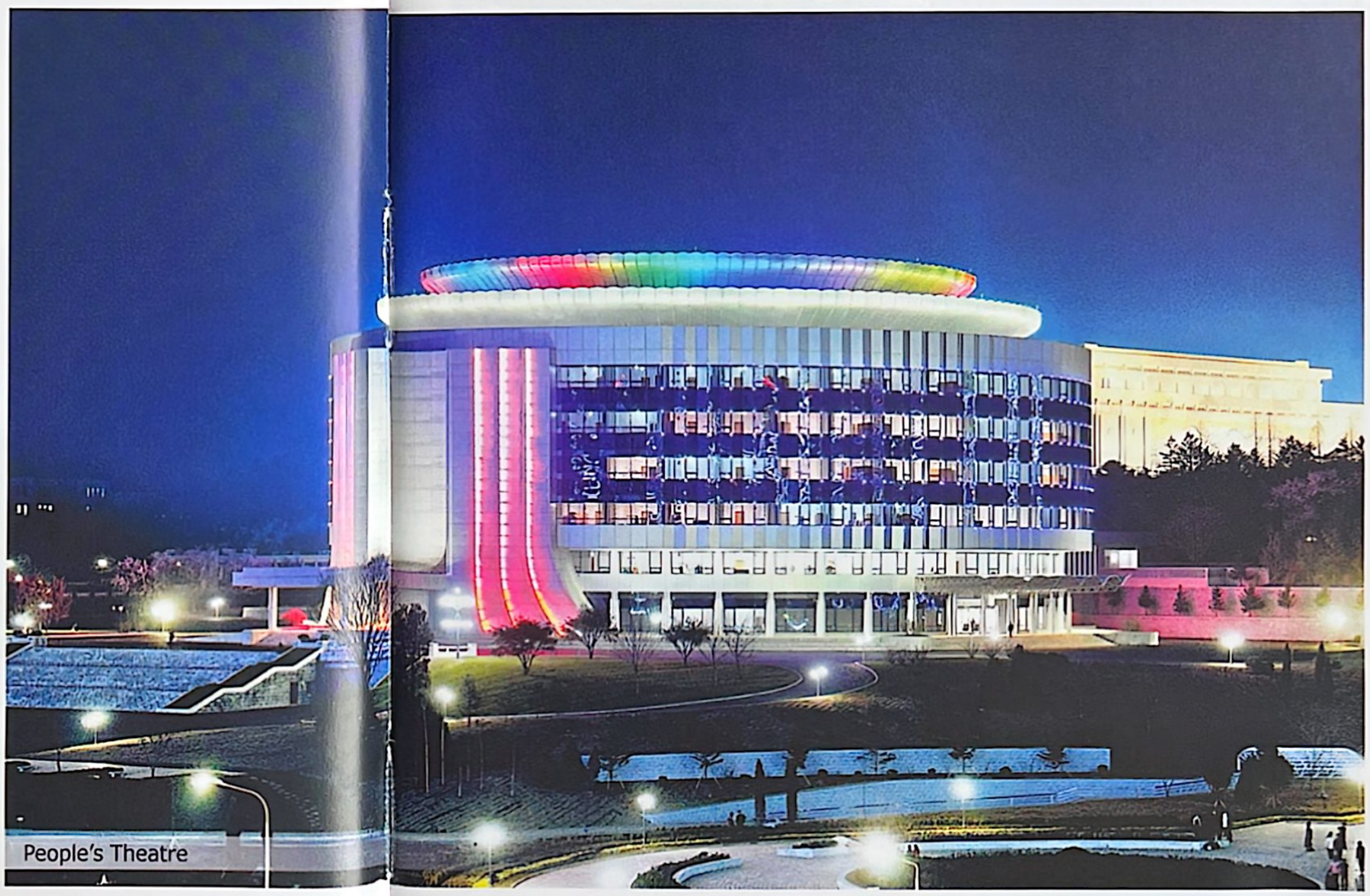
The industrial fine arts of commerce, costume, industry and architecture have reached a new phase along with the eye-opening advancement in the building of an economic power and the betterment of the people's livelihood.

Pyongyang Grand Theatre

People's Theatre

Kim Jong Il planned the theatre's construction and saw in his lifetime that the project was started. It was completed within a period of one year under the leadership of the supreme leader Kim Jong Un. It has a total floor space of 50 000 m² and consists of a 1 500-seat amphitheatre and a 500-seat underground auditorium of peculiar architectural styles. In the microphone-free round theatre, the seats are arranged in groups round the stage to allow the audiences to see the performers from different angles and thus ensure more sufficient exchange of emotions between entertainers and audiences.

The underground car park and service facilities provide every necessary condition.

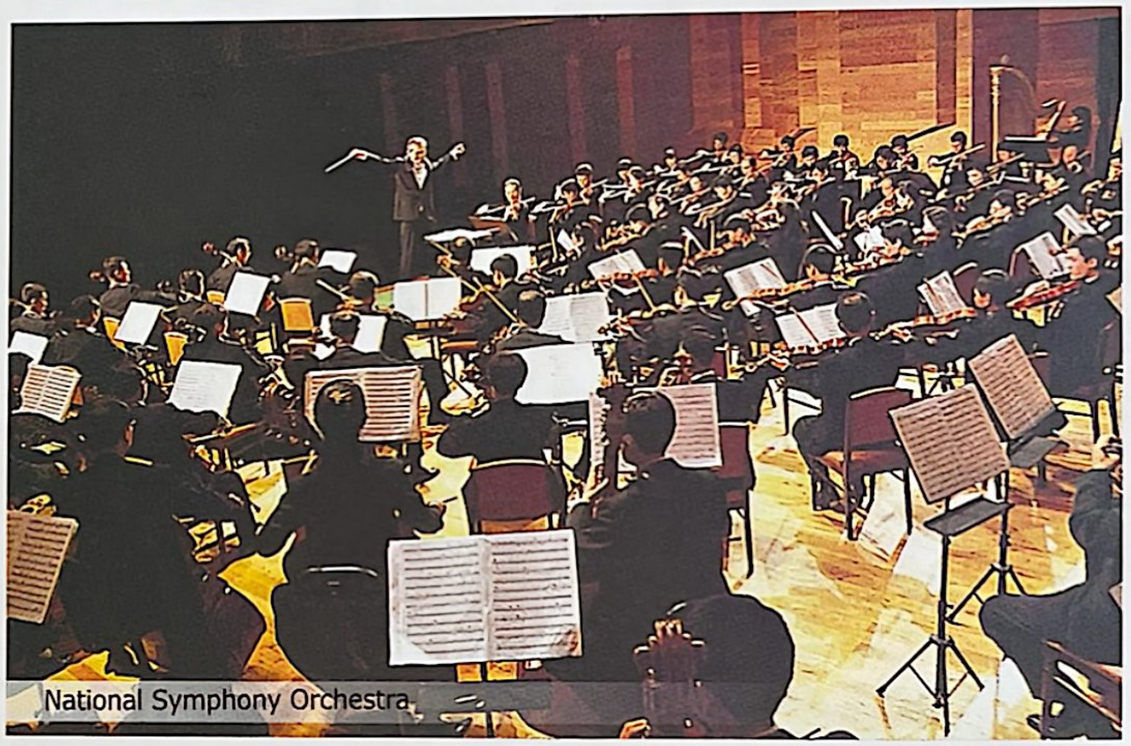


People's Theatre

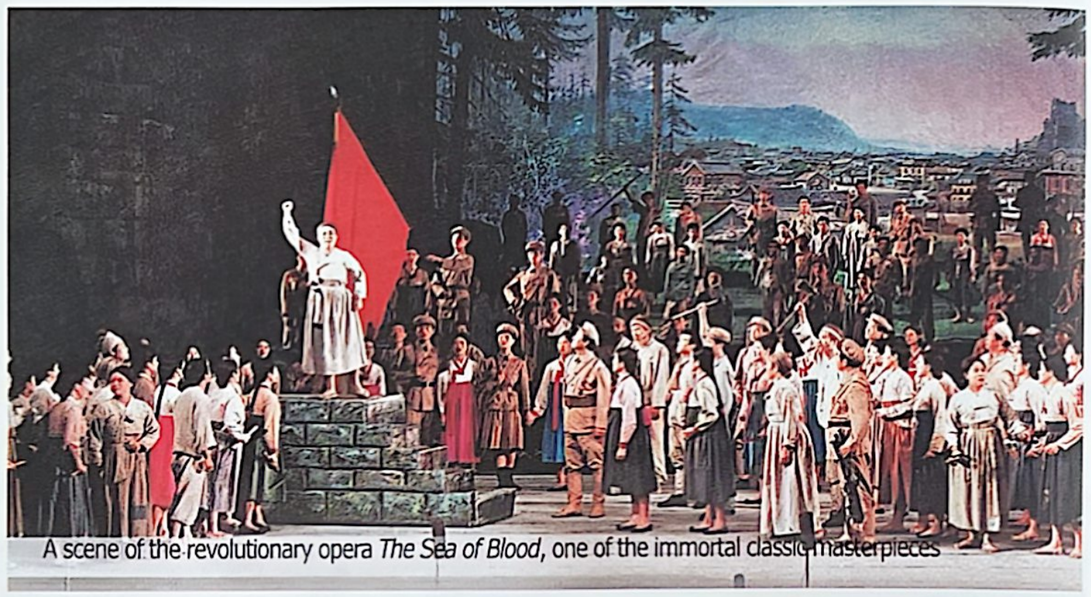
Moranbong Theatre

Pyongyang Circus

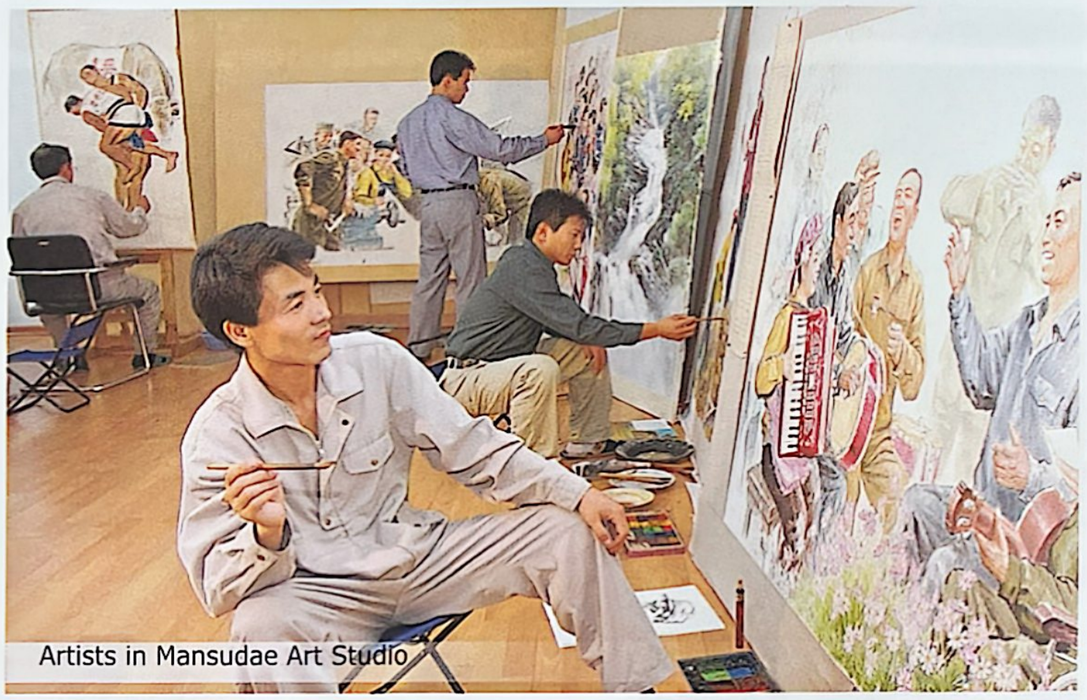
National Theatre

State Merited Chorus

National Symphony Orchestra

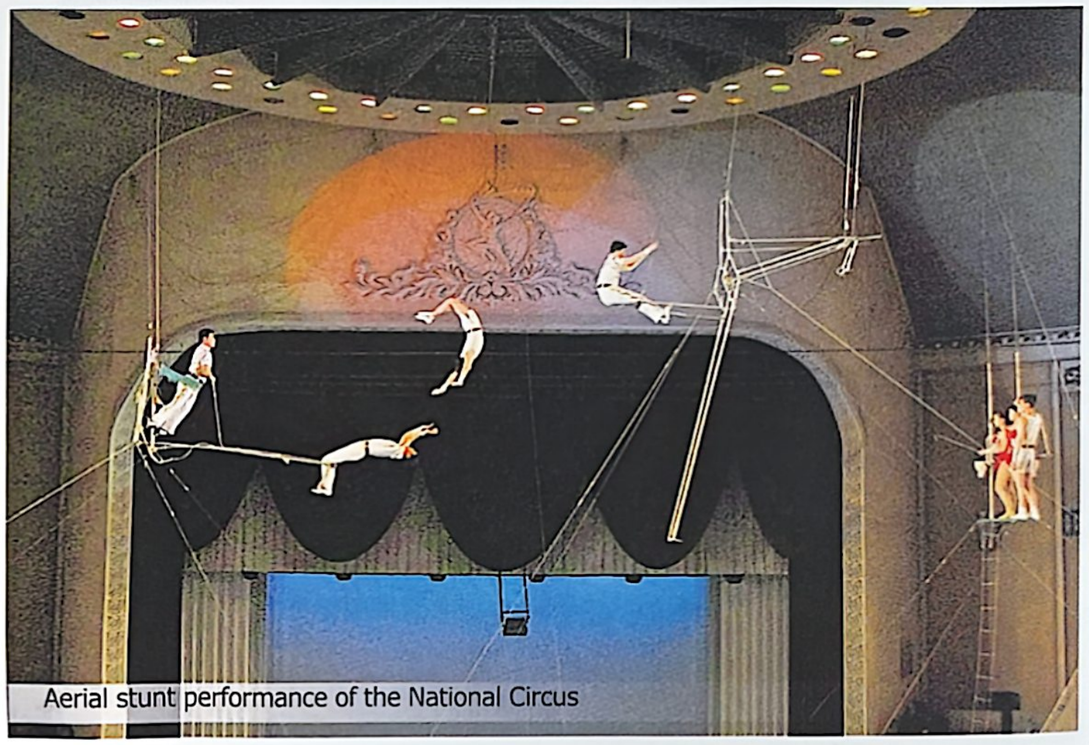
Moranbong Band



A scene of the revolutionary opera *The Sea of Blood*, one of the immortal classic masterpieces

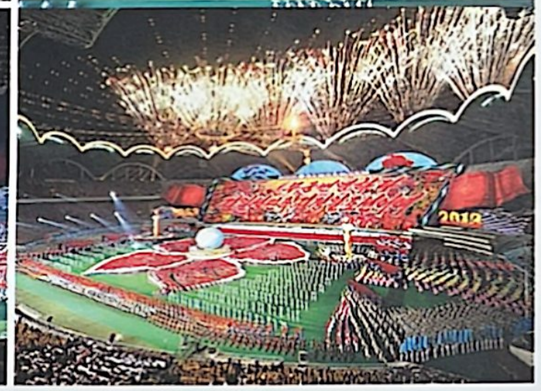


Artists in Mansudae Art Studio



Aerial stunt performance of the National Circus

Scenes of the Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang"



Certificate of the Guinness World Records awarded to the Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang"

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

CERTIFICATE

The record for the largest gymnastic display was achieved by Grand Mass Gymnastic and Artistic Performance "Arirang" State Preparing Committee of Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the May Day Stadium, Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 14 August 2007.

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS LTD

Sports

Physical culture is popularized and made part and parcel of one's life in the DPRK and sports are developed to suit the characteristics and physical constitution of Koreans.

Working people conduct mass physical culture such as morning exercise, exercises during recesses and collective jogging, and sports games including football, table tennis, volleyball, basketball, tennis and badminton are broadly played in houses and at schools and recreation places. National games such as swinging, seesawing and Korean wrestling are encouraged.

The Korea University of Physical Education and juvenile sports schools train talented sportspersons and professionals.

There are many sports bases and facilities across the country. Among them are the Kim Il Sung Stadium, May Day Stadium, Pyongyang Indoor Staduim and Taekwon-Do Hall in Pyongyang, and wintertime training centre in the Samjiyon area. Recently modern sports and cultural bases—the Taekwon-Do Holy Centre, Thongilgori Fitness Centre, Yanggakdo Sports Village, People's Open-air Ice Rink, Roller Rink and Meari Firing Range—have been built. Stadiums are always busy with national or international games.

The DPRK's athletes have taken part in international games including the Olympics, world and Asian championships, and the Asian Games, and won many medals.

At the 8th World Cup Soccer finals held in Juche 55 (1966), the DPRK team, representing Asia and Oceania, defeated the Italian team and became one of the Last Eight, to the amazement of the world. At the World Women's Soccer Championships held in Russia in Juche 95 (2006) the Korea's team secured the first place.

At the World Taekwon-Do Championships, the DPRK's players of both sexes have registered excellent scores in all events of pattern, sparring and power show, and the country has ranked first in the medals table, exalting its dignity and honour as the native land of Taekwon-Do.

At the 30th Olympics held in England in Juche 101 (2012) the DPRK's athletes won gold medals in the 56 kg category of men's weightlifting, 52 kg category of women's judo and 69 kg category of women's weightlifting and broke the world and Olympic records in the 62 kg category of men's weightlifting and brought home gold medals. The Reuters, BBC and many other foreign media reported that DPRK's athletes were raising a gust of wind, stressing that their victory was ascribable to their boundless loyalty to and trust in their leader and fervent love for their country and people.

After winning the women's marathon event at the 7th World Field and Track Championship, Jong Song Ok said: "I envisioned great leader Kim Jong Il through the running course. This inspired me greatly and became a source of my energy."

Sin Kum Dan, "Queen" of the world track and field events, who broke the world records 11 times in the international track and field events including women's 400 m and 800 m in the First Newly-Emerging Nations Games

Pak Yong Sun emerges victorious twice in the female single in the 33rd and 34th ITTF World Championships

Kye Sun Hui, four-time champion of the World Judo Championships

The DPRK young women footballers win FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship in Juche 95 (2006)

An Kum Ae, Kim Un Guk, Om Yun Chol and Rim Jong Sim are gold medalists at the 30th Olympics

Kim Hyok Bong and Kim Jong are champions of the mixed doubles in the 52nd ITTF World Championships

Korean Taekwon-Do

Taekwon-Do is one of Korean national martial arts, in which hands and feet are used to attack and defend from the opponent without using any weapons. It has developed into an event of modern sports.

Practicing Taekwon-Do is portrayed lifelike on the murals of the Koguryo period, when martial spirit was worshipped across the nation.

As regards its technical movements, it combines Koguryo's *Subakhui* with *Taekkyon* and *Nalpharam*, which originated from *Subakhui*.

Korean alone is used in the Taekwon-Do games.

The uniform of the Taekwon-Do practitioners is also modelled on the Korean national attire. There are about 3 200 basic movements in Taekwon-Do.

And there are 10 degrees and 9 levels for the practitioners. The International Taekwon-Do Federation embraces about 30 millions of practitioners. Taekwon-Do games take place, divided into patterns, sparring, power show and forte.

The DPRK, the native place of Taekwon-Do, invented varied forms of Taekwon-Do exercises, helping improve the physical fitness of the working people.

The Korean-style hip-saddle roofed building of the Taekwon-Do Holy Centre, recently built in Pyongyang, is a comprehensive centre for propagation of Taekwon-Do. Covering a total floor space of more than ten thousand square metres, it has a history hall, a knowledge propagation hall, training hall, international conference hall and service facilities.

Taekwon-do Holy Centre

Public Health

There are lots of hospitals and clinics in the DPRK, and universal free medical service is in force in the country.

This system has been enforced since Juche 42 (1953) when the Fatherland Liberation War (Korean war) was at its height and later developed into a completely free medical service.

Diagnosis, doctor's visit, outpatient and inpatient treatment, surgery, medicine, and even meals in hospital are offered free to patients at the state's expense.

Preventive medicine system and district medical care system constitute the mainstay of the country's public health system.

Preventive medicine system with a regular system of sanitary and anti-epidemic measures ranging from the centre to provinces is aimed at protecting the working people from all kinds of diseases by means of vaccination and regular medical check-up.

District medical care system is an advanced medical service system in which doctors visit patients, not vice-versa. Each doctor is in charge of his district and he regularly makes round of his district to conduct hygienic information work, improve sanitation, give consultation and provide medical check-up, thus contributing to preventive treatment.

Numerous specialized hospitals and health research institutions are distributed across the country, like the Pyongyang Medical College Hospital under Kim Il Sung University, Academy of Koryo Medicine, Kim Man Yu Hospital, Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, and ophthalmic, orthopedic, dental and other specialized hospitals.

In different parts of the country there are many pharmaceutical factories. Among them are the Korea Jongsong Medicine Company, whose production lines from drug research to development, testing and packaging have reached the GMP standard, and Kanggye Koryo Medicine Factory that has been built in line with the demands of the 21st century.

Sanitoriums built in places rich in mineral water and spa promote the improvement of the physical fitness of the working people.

The average life expectancy of Koreans has nearly doubled, compared to 38 years of pre-liberation days, and the number of centenarians grows year after year.

Pyongyang Maternity Hospital

Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital

Medical Fee Is Strange to Koreans

An ambulance carried a rural woman to a hospital in Pyongyang. She was pregnant and paraplegic due to acute polyneuritis, and began to be almost breathless.

The state-of-the-art medical equipment was mobilized, and a medical team consisting of competent doctors and nurses was formed.

Artificial respiration for the completely unconscious patient went on for 105 days.

The treatment took a hundred kinds of priceless drugs, 4.5-litre blood for transfusion and even nutritious meals. During the whole period of 156-day treatment, the doctor in charge of the patient and three nurses always attended her.

The woman was snatched from the jaws of death and delivered a daughter.

The medical fee the ordinary rural woman and her baby daughter should have paid amounted to US$ 240 000, but she did not know about it.

Mass Media

The central newspapers are *Rodong Sinmun*, *Minju Joson*, *Pyongyang Sinmun* and *Chongnyon Jonwi*, and there are also provincial papers. Also there are the Korean Central News Agency, Korean Central Radio Station, Pyongyang Radio Station, and provincial, city and county broadcasting stations. The Korean Central TV Station provides TV services.

As for publishing houses, there are the Workers' Party of Korea Publishing House, Kumsong Youth Publishing House, Foreign Languages Publishing House, Science and Encyclopedia Publishing House, Art and Literature Publishing House, Educational Books Publishing House and large and small-sized publishing houses of universities and scientific research institutions.

Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

The Economy

Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism

Diet

Food Culture

Korean food is divided largely into usual diet, national dishes and drinks.

The usual diet consists of staple foods and side dishes.

One kind of the traditional staple foods is pap (boiled cereals). *Pap* is made of rice, hulled millet, barley, millet, Indian millet and corn. There are different kinds of *pap* including *ipap* (boiled rice), *ogokpap* (made of five cereals), *yakpap* (glutinous rice mixed with sugar, date, chestnut, pine-nut and sesame oil), *pibimpap* (boiled rice mixed with side dishes) and *kimpap* (seasoned rice rolled in laver).

Other staple foods of unique national tradition include *ttok* (similar to rice-cake), noodles and so on. There are scores of kinds of *ttok* including *chalttok* (glutinous rice-cake), *songphyon* (half-moon-shaped rice-cake, stuffed with beans and flavoured with pine needles), *shiumttok* (fermented rice-cake), *siruttok* (steam rice-cake), etc.

Noodles are not only a kind of usual diet but also a popular dish for a birthday party, wedding ceremony and memorial service days. Pyongyang Cold Noodles is the most famous of them. As a saying goes that "Do not say you've been to Korea if you failed to eat Pyongyang Cold Noodles", its popularity is great.

Side dishes are soysauce, bean paste, soup and *kimchi*. Among them soysauce and bean paste are indispensable foods for diet. Hot soup is usually served for breakfast and supper, and often cold one in summer days.

Jjigae, a dish of fresh pepper, garlic, green onion and bean paste stewed in earthenware before serving, is an important element of the diet.

Kimchi is one of the most renowned traditional dishes of Korea. It is known far and wide for its efficacy in health and longevity as it contains plenty of vitamins and other nutrients.

Among Korean dishes are exquisite drinks such as tea, *hwachae* (honey juice with fruits in it), *sikhye* (sweet rice drink), liquor, a fruit punch (made of honey, dried persimmon, pine nut and cinnamon), a sweet drink (prepared with rice and malt), scorched-rice tea, etc. Liquors include rice wine, *makkolli* (unstrained rice wine), and *soju* (Korean gin).

The renowned brands of Korean liquor are Pyongyang Liquor, Pyongyang Soju, Kamhongro Liquor, Taephyong Liquor, Kaesong Koryo Insam Liquor, Wild Insam Liquor, Inphung Liquor, Wine, Paektusan Bog Bilberry Wine, etc. Traditional candies include taffy, *kwajul* (fried cake made of wheat flour, honey and oil), *yumilgwa* (oil-and-honey pastry), *kangjong* (fried glutinous rice-cake), *tasik* (patterned savoury cake), *suksilgwa* (food made of steamed date or chestnut mingled with cinnamon powder, pine nut powder and honey), *jonggwa* (fruit jam), etc.

Table Manners

Korean people take it granted for elders to take spoons before young people. At the table they sit up decently and try to create an amicable atmosphere.

Koreans welcome guests and serve them with sincerity.

At the table the host takes the spoon first and helps the guest to take food, putting delicious and rare dishes near him and helping him have his full. He also tries to create a harmonious ambience for the guest to feel at home and avoids finishing the meal before his guest.

Ogokpap

It is a national dish for the 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar that dates as far back as ancient times when farming began.

It is a dish made of five cereals including rice. They say the custom of having the dish on that particular day mirrors the people's wish for another bumper crops in the new year and five blessings (longevity, wealth, health, blessing of children and peaceful death).

Pyongyang Cold Noodles (buckwheat noodles)

Ssukttok (Mugwort-rice cake)

***Sinsollo* (cooking brazier)**

Sinsollo, a dish made of scores of food ingredients put together and cooked, tastes good beyond description.

Between the late 15th century and the early 16th century a scholar who lived in a mountain, prepared meals using a peculiar brazier and later the dish was named *sinsollo* in the sense that the brazier was used by the immortal-like senior.

Soy Sauce and Bean Paste

From antiquity Korean people used boiled beans as a side dish. In busy farming seasons boiled beans were also used as fodder for draught animals.

People came to pay attention to the fact that the animals were especially fond of moldy beans scattered on the ground. They boiled beans, intentionally fermented them and mashed and seasoned them with salt. It tasted good and extraordinary. Some provinces referred to it as *ssokjang* (fermented beans). The fermented soybeans were seasoned with salt and screened to produce soy sauce. Soybean malt powder and salt were again added to the remnants to make bean paste. Later, with the advent of pepper farming, it developed into peppered bean paste and became an appetizing, fixed side dish.

Jongol

An episode relates to *jongol*, a kind of beef stew. Long, long ago, triumphant soldiers chased the fleeing enemy only to reach a ravine. It was dark and they were hungry but their provisions had run out after a long travel. Nothing but a little of the food people had given them was left; but that food was too hard to eat. They had no pan to boil it in. After a thought, they put the whole of rice and side dishes into their *jonnip* (a felt hat for soldier in those days), added some water to it and placed it over a fire.

The appetizing smell of the simmering food was so good that they started to take one spoonful after another, braving the heat. They found it quite delicious. This is the origin of the name *jongol*, and the present-day dish of beef, vegetable and fish boiled in a pot before serving came into being.

Kimchi—One of the World Five Health Foods.

Whole cabbage *kimchi*

Health, an American monthly, introduced Korean *kimchi* as following under the headline The World's Top Health Food:

Kimchi, one of fermentative foodstuffs, is rich in vitamins A, B, C and has a lot of fungi good for health that help digestion. It also is a low-fat health food rich in fibre and especially acts as a suppressor of the growth of cancer cells.

Three Favourite Dishes of Korean People

Kimchi, steak and mung-bean pancake are known as three favourite dishes of Korean people.

Paeksokbak kimchi (pickled sliced radishes and cabbages seasoned with pepper)

Bossam kimchi

Steak

Green bean pancake

Costume

From olden times the Korean garments that were invented in the course of labouring life and have developed as suited to the national character had clear distinctions between the male and female attires. The colour and form of costumes varied with age groups and summer clothes were mostly white. Koreans were simple, plain and cultured in attires and always dressed clean and tidy.

The major national costume of Korean women is *chima* and *jogori*.

Chima* and *Jogori

The traditional attire of the Korean women consists of *jogori* (a coat) and *chima* (a long skirt) and toe-capped rubber shoes.

The features of *chima* and *jogori* are that the latter looks tight as it is small and short, whereas the former looks plump as it is wide and long.

Dwelling

The traditional dwelling of Koreans is a one-storey house with floor heating.

Its structure differs a little from province to province, but something they have in common is a heating system called *ondol*. Flooring a room with flat stones to be heated keeps the room warm, and a chimney leading through the roof keeps the room air fresh and clean.

The present urban communities are dominated by high-rise apartment houses, but in the rural villages one-storey houses equipped with *ondol* heating system are common.

There is a peculiar custom related to dwelling. When one moves to a new flat, neighbours help him carry his household goods, present a match or a gourd and wish him a happy life.

When entering the room, they put off their shoes. In the room, young people offer their seniors the warm place on the floor.

***Ondol*, the earliest heating system**

Ondol is a heating mode peculiar to the Korean nation; a system of flues laid under the floor is used to heat the room by building fire at it. It has been introduced from ancient times. It is superior in some respects to other heating facilities, and has developed into a hot-water *ondol* system, a modern central heating system.

Custom of Family Life

Supporting one's living parents with devotion, taking good care of one's parents in senile infirmity and paying homage to the late parents are essentials in family custom Korean people have observed from generation to generation.

A newborn baby takes father's surname. Women do not change their first and second names after marriage.

The family custom includes holding birthday celebrations, and 60th birthday feast of parents is representative of them.

In the past a person who lived to be 60 was considered to have lived long. To mark his or her 60th birthday a grand banquet was held to congratulate the guest of honour on longevity and wish him or her a longer life. He or she was presented with new garments and a ceremonial feast table. When the table was ready, the children, relatives and friends would take their turn to present a cup of wine and a deep bow to the guest of honour.

A birthday table is now arranged in the name of the country for the people who have been devotedly working for the country and the people and also for centenarians. Holding a memorial service for the deceased is another important family custom.

Funerals and memorial services are held in a simple but mournful and polite way.

The basic way of greeting of Koreans is a bow.

Juniors make a deep bow to their parents and other elders among their family members and relatives.

Outdoors, people usually bow in a standing position. The extent of bending of the upper body shows the relation of the junior to the senior. The deeper the bow, the more respectful it is. When Korean people meet others of same age, they make a slight bow to each other before exchanging greetings.

Welcoming of guests is a peculiar etiquette and trait of the Korean nation.

Everywhere you go in the DPRK that has been known as an "eastern country of good manners" from olden times, you can feel kindness and warm hospitality for guests.

Folk Games

Ssirum (Korean Wrestling)

Ssirum is a game in which two stooping contestants hold each other's thigh band and strive to throw the opponent to the ground.

The remains portraying the lifelike scene of *ssirum* are the mural paintings of the *Ssirum* Tomb (in the late 4th century) and the Changshuan Tomb No. 1 (in the mid-5th century) in Jian County, Jilin Province, China. Both of them are Koguryo's tombs. They show that the peculiar Korean *ssirum* has a long history.

Ssirum has been regarded as a must on *chusok* (lunar August 15), a Korean folk holiday.

The champion in *ssirum* contest received an ox as a prize and would ride home the ox decorated with flowers as a triumphant general.

Even now the Grand Bull Prize National *Ssirum* Contest takes place every year on the picturesque Rungna Islet in Pyongyang to mark *chusok*.

Tug of War

Tug of war, a team play, has a long tradition. In the bygone days, it usually took place on *jongwoldaeborun* (the 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar) and *chusok*, and it has now developed into a sport of team play that can be held in any place and at any time.

The time-honoured game of the Korean nation has now become a nationwide folk game that demonstrates the might of united group and helps build up physical strength and endurance. On national holidays high-ranking officials of the Party and state join the working people taking part in the game.

Jumping Seesaw

Different episodes relate to its origin: one says that in the Koryo period, a wife played at seesaw outside the wall to see her husband in jail; another is that, as an expression of their complaints about the feudal shackles, women used to get on a board in the courtyard to look out of the wall. Still another story is that it is representation of the movement of a mill worked by treading that had been used in the bygone days.

On lunar New Year's Day and 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar women in nice dresses got together to play at seesaw till late at night.

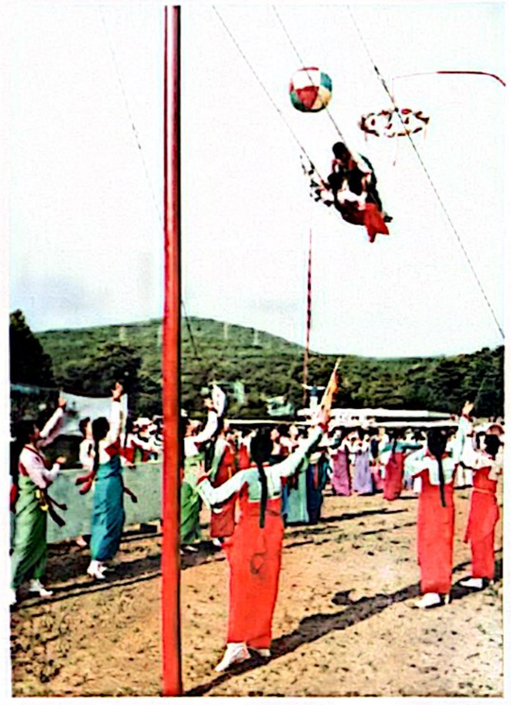
Typical playing modes include vertical jumping, stunt, rhythmic jumping to the tune of folk songs, high jumping, and long jumping.

Seesawing, as one of the national acrobatics, enjoys a big popularity abroad.

Swinging

Swinging is a contest in which a person standing on a board held by two ropes hanging from a certain height tries to swing as high as possible, moving back and forth. Swinging includes single and double swingings.

In the contest the swinger who kicks the bell hung high before her swing is the winner, or in other case, a calibrated line fastened to the swinging board can be used to measure the height it reaches for each swinger. One who swings the highest is the winner.



Korean Chess, Go, *Yut* and *Konu* Games

The Korean chess, though simple in composition, has so many varied moves that the more you play, the more interesting it gets. As the Korean saying goes that the weak has the first move, the ethics in the Korean chess has it that the inferior takes the first move, and the older player takes the red chessmen and the younger the blue.

The go is an interesting game associated with the ancestors' simple outlook on the universe that the sky is round and the land is square. It was broadly propagated in the period of the Three Kingdoms (Koguryo, Paekje and Silla) as well as in the ancient times.

As it was one of the intellectual games that drew interest from not only the public but also the government, the book that explains the go tactics was even published in the period of the feudal Joson dynasty. The playing method is that the two players alternately put a stone at an intersection on the board to encircle each other's stones, and the number of stone captives in the captured territory is decisive of the winner.

The *yut* game is one of women's games in which they compete by moving markers on a board according to the patterns in which four sticks thrown in the air fall. In the old days it was played around New Year's Day, but now it has become one of popular games that everybody enjoys regardless of time and place, season and gender. The four sticks form five patterns when fell on the dice board: When three of them fall on the obverse side and one on the reverse side, this is called *to*, worth one point. When two of them fall on the obverse side with the other two on the reverse side, it is *kae*, worth two points. When one falls on the obverse side with the other three on the reverse side, it is called *kol*, worth three points. When all of the four sticks fall on the obverse side, it is called *yut* or *ssyung*, worth four points. When all of the four sticks fall on the reverse side, it is called *mo*, worth five points, the top points. The board has 29 positions in all which are said to represent constellations.

The winner is the one who scores more *yut* and completes more rounds along the course of the board.

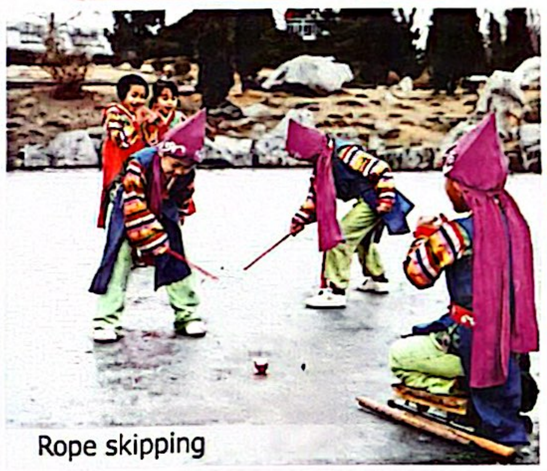
How to drop sticks for desired marks is essential, but the tactical move of the stone is also important.

The *konu* game is also played by moving stones.

Children's games include kite-flying, rope skipping, top spinning, etc.

Go

Yut game


Rope skipping

Top spinning

Dancing and Singing of Peasants

The singing and dancing of peasants is one of the traditional folk events: There are peasant dancing and singing, mask dance and *kanggangsuwollae* (a Korean circle dance usually played by girls under the bright full moon), etc.

The peasant dancing and singing is a folk play associated with farming, in which several people in national attire dance merrily, while singing.

It took place before and after a day's work and at breaks, mostly during the seasons of rice-seedling transplanting and weeding. It was also performed on holidays and ceremonies, between labour and as a pastime.

It includes men's dance of turning round decorative tassels, and dance of persons wearing masks of different faces, among which the *Pongsan Mask Dance* has long been a renowned folk game.

Today peasant dancing and singing adds luster to "Arirang", the Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastic and artistic performance, and other art stages and makes pleasure parks stirring.

Dancing and singing of peasants

Major Holidays

Day of the Sun—April 15, the greatest national holiday when the President Kim Il Sung was born in Juche 1 (1912)

Day of Shining Star—February 16, the greatest national holiday when leader Kim Jong Il was born in Juche 31 (1942)

Anniversary of the founding of the DPRK—September 9, Juche 37 (1948)
Anniversary of the founding of the WPK—October 10, Juche 34 (1945)
Day of Socialist Constitution of the DPRK—December 27, Juche 61 (1972)
Day of the founding of the KPA—April 25, Juche 21 (1932)
Day of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War—July 27, Juche 42 (1953)
Day of Songun—August 25, Juche 49 (1960)
Liberation day of the country—August 15, Juche 34 (1945)
Day of founding of the Korean Children's Union—June 6, Juche 35 (1946)
International Women's Day-March 8
International holiday of working people of the world—May 1
International Children's Day—June 1
Day of Mothers—November 16
Chongmyong—April 5
New Year's Day—January 1
Solmyongjol—lunar January 1
Jongwoldaeborum—lunar January 15
Chusok—lunar August 15

Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

The Economy

Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism

All the citizens of the DPRK enjoy freedom of religious belief.

Religious activities have been ensured consistently since the first days of the people's power.

Today the Korean believers are leading a free religious life in different religious organizations while making contributions to the prosperity of the country and the sacred cause of national reunification and strengthening solidarity with the progressive religious organizations and followers over the world.

Religious Believers Council of Korea

It is a non-standing organ of religious organizations in the DPRK, formed on May 30, Juche 78 (1989). It comprises the Chondoist Association of Korea, Buddhist Federation of Korea, Christian Federation of Korea, Catholics Association of Korea and the Korean Orthodox Church Committee.

It struggles for socialist construction and the independent, peaceful reunification of the country and peace against war and nuke. It conducts activities to promote cooperation among its affiliate religious organizations and strengthen ties of friendship with the international religious institutions and organizations.

It joined the World Religion and Peace Conference on July 1, Juche 80 (1991).

Religion of Chondo

It originated in Korea in the mid-19th century. Its founder is Choe Je U (1824–1864).

It was first called Tonghak to distinguish itself from the western learning (Chatholicism). Tonghak means Oriental or Korean (tong) Learning. It was renamed Chondo in 1905.

The key doctrine of Tonghak is that man is God. Choe Je U advocated that man is the most intelligent of all things in the universe and therefore there is no need for him to have a god above him; man himself and his mind are the very god and the will of the god. He asserted that there is no difference between man and god and among people. Tonghak preached the need to save the country, make people feel at ease and relieve them from distress.

Choe Je U

He founded Tonghak in the mid-19th century. Born into a ruined noble family and bereaved of his mother at 5, he grew up, supported by his cousin. At 16 he was bereaved of even his father, and at 20 lost his family property because of a disaster.

He left his home, and wandered about renowned mountains such as Mts. Kumgang, Kuwol, Jiri and Myohyang, witnessing firsthand the miserable life of the people who were suffering from misfortunes, troubles, poverty and hunger owing to the feudal domination and subjugation and the corruptness of the society in all aspects of politics, the economy, morality and religion; he realized the demand of people who were in uneasiness and despair, being at a loss which way to take. After 20 years of drift, he returned home and put his energy into creating a new religion. In the early 1860 his new religion, Tonghak, was born. In 1863, three years after he embarked on the dissemination of the religion, he was arrested by the feudal government and executed the next year, in March 1864. His books include *Tonggyongdaejon*, *Ryongdamga* and so on.

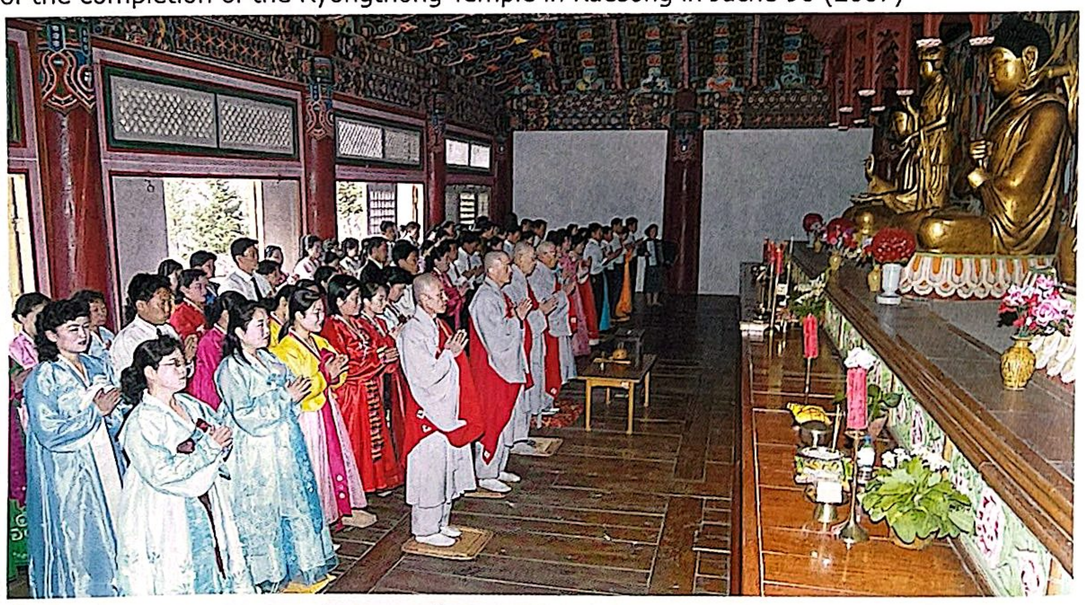
Vice-chairman of the central committee of the Buddhist Federation of Korea addresses the inaugural meeting of the India-DPR of Korea Buddhist Friendship Association in Juche 73 (1984)

Chairman of the central committee of the Buddhist Federation of Korea on visit to Japan (right) in Juche 83 (1994)

Delegation of the Buddhist Federation of Korea pays a courtesy call to China State Religion Secretariat in Juche 95 (2006)

South Korean Buddhist pilgrims on visit to Singye Temple in Juche 96 (2007)

Buddhists in the north and the south attend the event to mark the 3rd anniversary of the completion of the Ryongthong Temple in Kaesong in Juche 96 (2007)



Monks and followers attend a mass (in the Pohyon Temple in Mt. Myohyang)

Chilgol Church

Pongsu Church

Jongbaek Buddhist Temple

Nature

History

Politics

National Defence

The Economy

Culture

Folk Customs

Religion

Tourism

The aspiration of people after a more cultured life has brought about the rapid development in the tourist industry in the international scope. In keeping with the demand of the times and international trend, the DPRK is making big efforts to develop tourism, strengthening friendship and exchange with the people the world over.

Tourism resources

Korea has rich and diverse tourism resources. Beautiful landscape can be recommended first. From olden times Korea has been known as a "land as beautiful as a golden tapestry" and a "land of scenic beauty" for the ubiquitous picturesque sceneries and beauty spots.

Mt. Paektu, the ancestral mountain of the Korean nation, rising high with Lake Chon on its summit, and Kumgang, Myohyang, Chilbo, Kuwol and many other noted mountains present a superb scenic beauty—the natural beauty of mountains and valleys and various and peculiar sceneries.

There are many inland beauty spots such as Pujon Plateau, Lake Samji, Sokdamgugok (three ponds and nine bends), and Rungna Island. At the shores of the East Sea and West Sea of Korea are many scenic spots including Songdowon boasting of a vast expanse of sand beach and pine woods, Lagoon Samil, Chongsokjong, Monggumpho and others.

Ryongmun Cave and Songam Cavern present mysterious underground sceneries.

There is a place that commands the scenes of four seasons and the flora of different climatic zones. Tourists can see migrant birds flying over the river meandering through a big city, white bellied black woodpecker and *Pentactina rupicola*, which are a Korean special bird and plant, respectively.

Korea with long history and culture has many antique remains and relics—remains of the primitive era that give a glimpse of the evolution of man one million years ago, the Mausoleum of King Tangun and ancient metal relics such as a pipha-shaped dagger and a bronze mirror with a fine line pattern as well as numberless remains and relics showing the wisdom and spirit of the Korean people in the Middle Ages. Ramparts and gates of the Walled City of Pyongyang and Jongbangsan Fort, the Pohyon Temple and octagonal 13-storeyed pagoda, Ryongthong Temple, the bell at the Yonbok Temple, and the murals in the Kangso Three Tombs and Anak Tomb No.3 of the Koguryo period are worthwhile seeing. Besides, metal types, rain gauge and turtle-shaped ship which are the first of their kinds in the world draw big interest of tourists.

In addition, there are rare historical relics such as the "80 000 Blocks of Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures" that are preserved in Mt. Myohyang and the *Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty*, which chronicles the over-500-year history of the feudal Joson dynasty.

In the Mt. Taesong area that features the old rampart and the site of royal palace of Koguryo, a millennium power in the East, the Pyongyang Folk Park has been built, giving a glimpse of the history and the recent looks of Korea.

Tourists can see the development made in the political, military, economic, cultural and other sectors that demonstrates the validity and might of the Juche idea and Songun idea, the ideological and spiritual propellant of modern Korea. They can also see a number of monumental edifices including the West Sea Barrage and visit historical sites and revolutionary battle sites, memorial halls, museums, exhibition halls including the International Friendship Exhibition House that keeps the gifts presented by heads of state of foreign countries and persons from various circles, and Panmunjom, where they can understand the tragedy of Korea that has been divided into the north and the south by foreign forces.

There are also other cultural tourist destinations, including the Kaeson Youth Pleasure Ground, Rungna People's Pleasure Park and other modern fun fairs that have been newly built or renovated in recent years. In addition, they can enjoy the Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang", grand magic show, etc.

Introduction to Tourism

The State Tourism General Bureau, Korea International Travel Agency, International Youth Travel Agency and Korea International Sports Travel Agency are headquartered in Pyongyang, and the provincial agencies are the Myohyangsan International Travel Agency (North Phyongan Province), Paektusan International Travel Agency (Ryanggang Province) and Chilbosan International Travel Agency (North Hamgyong Province), Rason International Travel Agency (Rason City), etc.

According to contracts with other foreign tourist agencies, the Korean travel agencies receive the contracted tourists and serve them.

The tourist season spans from April to October, but it is also possible in other seasons if desired.

Tourism is divided into an ordinary tourism that focuses on sightseeing and a special tourism.

Ordinary tourism is composed of colourful events such as visits to monumental edifices, exhibition halls and museums, tour of scenic spots and inspection of historical remains. Special tourism includes a trip to historical remains centring on the Koguryo's mural tombs, a geological study tour and a tour for observation of migrant birds at the Taedong River, which are aimed at making a study and observation of things concerning a particular field.

A tourist program ranges from a trip of three days and two nights to a trip of 15 days and 14 nights.

The current tourist route in the DPRK is set as follows:

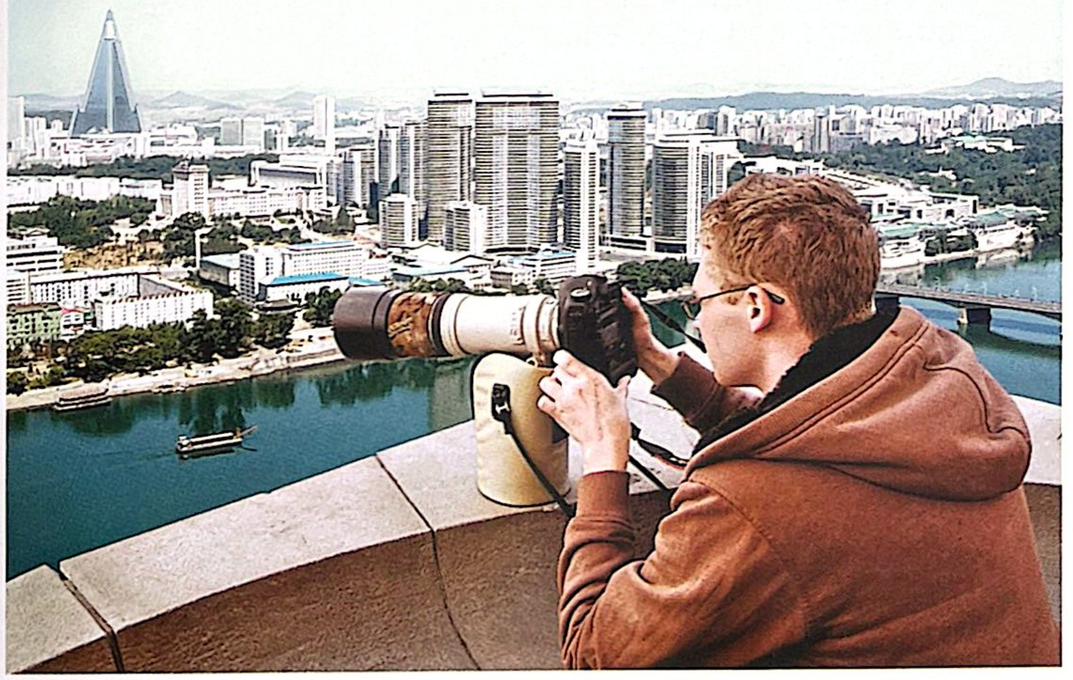
On arriving at Pyongyang by air or train, tourism begins.

In Pyongyang one visits the Tower of the Juche Idea, Arch of Triumph and others. Following this one can take the Pyongyang-Kaesong route leading to the capital of the erstwhile Koryo, and Panmunjom on the demarcation line, Pyongyang-Mt. Myohyang route to the scenic spots in the northwestern area, Pyongyang-Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang route to a coastal city of cultural recreation and the scenic spots on the shore of the East Sea of Korea, Pyongyang-Nampho-West Sea Barrage route to a port city and monumental edifice on the coast of the West Sea of Korea, and Pyongyang-Mt. Paektu route to the scenic spots in the northern border area.

These routes will take you to the neighbouring scenic spots, historical remains and other desired places.

Cableways and other facilities are available for tourists at Mt. Paektu, ancestral mountain of the Korean nation, and other renowned mountains such as Mts. Kumgang, Myohyang and Chilbo.

Tourists are trying Korean national dishes, making an inspection of remains and relics.

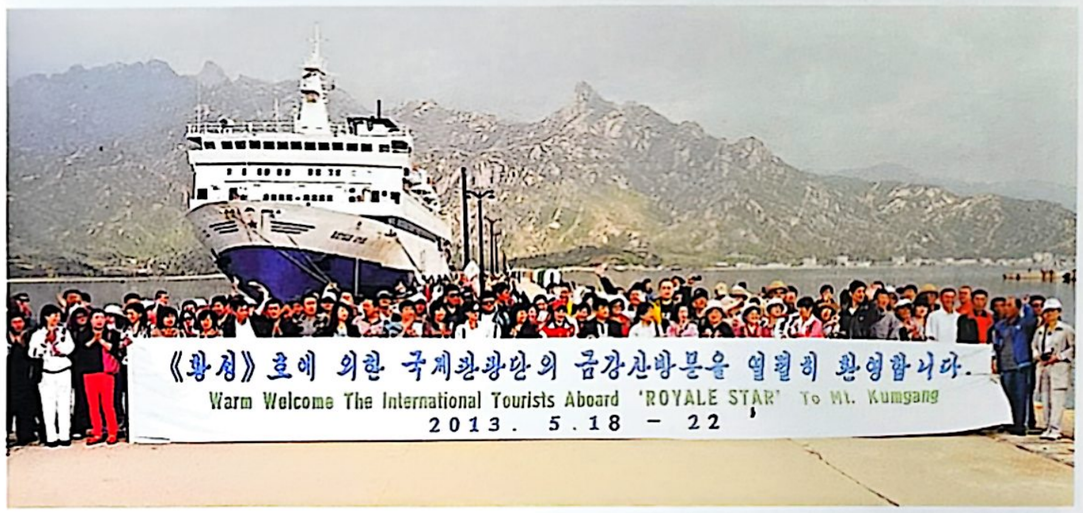


Grand monuments and modern buildings are open to visitors.

Panmunjom-visiting group are seeing with their own eyes the tragic reality of Korea divided by outside forces.

Tourists can get on board a desired aeroplane, out of the planes of different generations.

Aeroplane fanciers from England, Germany, France, the Nethelands, Brazil and Austria and other European regions appreciate the sightseeing of Korea by air as a perfect romance.



You can enjoy beautiful sceneries, going on a popular Rason-Mt. Kumgang sightseeing by a tourist boat.

Stadiums, riding courses, golf courses, skiing grounds, yacht and bike racing courses are astir with various sports sightseeing.

Wonsan and other places of Kangwon Province are famous tourist destinations in Korea.

Tourists can enjoy sea bathing on beaches at Kalma, Songdowon and Lake Sijung and climb Mt. Kumgang. They can enjoy clam-baking, rice gruel boiled with mussels in it, seeing a seascape, and go on a fishing trip to a river.

Or they can take a walk through a sea of apple trees opened under Chol Pass and climb the tableland of Sepho, which is a large-scale stockbreeding base, following the flocks of cows and goats and hearing their moos.

The tourists who visit the Sinphyong Kumgang, Ullim Falls, Sogwang Temple and Masik Pass skiing ground will be given special tourist guide and service there.

There are a lot of interesting events in a sightseeing. At Mt. Chilbo and other scenic sports and spas tourists are allowed to share living with the natives, picking wild herbs, cooking rice, enjoying potato-baking and to receive medical treatment with mineral water.

There are different forms of sightseeing—a marriage sightseeing in which, as wanted by a newly married couple, they, in the Korean national wedding attire, can sit down at the wedding table and an impressive rural sightseeing of transplanting rice-seedling together with farmers or weeding a field or picking fruit or having bean-flour drink or attending a meeting for the farmers' year-end account settlement and income distribution, or making straw sandals. Some visitors participate in the event of planting trees on a hill and return, taking a Korean-style hoe (with the short handle) and sickle as a souvenir with themselves.

Sightseers will not be sorry about the Korea's sightseeing thanks to perfect interest of seeing the picturesque mountains and rivers, enjoying themselves, eating and shopping. We warmly welcome them to come to the DPRK.

Tourist Service

Pyongyang, the capital city, and provinces have tourist facilities and traffic means.

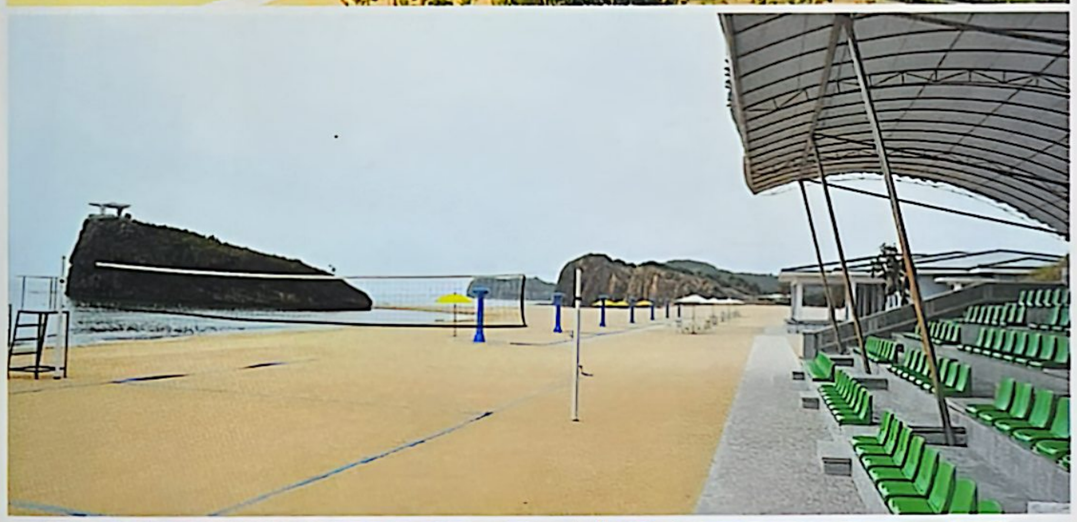
In Pyongyang there are the Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang Koryo Hotel, Ryanggang Hotel, Sosan Hotel, Youth Hotel, etc. Outstanding provincial hotels include the Hyangsan Hotel and Chongchon Hotel in the Mt. Myohyang area, Kumgangsan Hotel in the Mt. Kumgang area, Kaesong Folk Hotel and Janamsan Hotel and Majon Hotel in the Hamhung area. Hotels are being built or renovated.

Hotels serve tourists with peculiar Korean traditional dishes, world-renowned dishes and refreshing drinks; special dishes and beverages are those made from the world-renowned Kaesong Koryo *insam*, and natural water known for high quality, like Sindok Spring Water and Kangso mineral water.

Airplanes, buses and other means of traffic are available.

The new tourist destinations and the new service amenities which are now under development will allow the DPRK to accommodate more tourists.

Majon Hotel



Pyongyang Koryo Hotel

Yanggakdo International Hotel

Hyangsan Hotel

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